■ Super! / C2

Fighting Foo with razor-sharp sense of pop inscription

■ Property / B2-1

Developer sells P435-M real estate in Parañaque to US-based Filipinos

■ News / A2

Truth body 'purely fact-finding'

■ Across / A16

Drivers in Cebu, Bacolod set strike as GMA delivers Sona

■ Metro / A19

Venezia bar slay suspect faces homicide raps

House 'impeaches' GMA from press cards for Sona

MASKI NUNAL WALA?!?

By Michael Lim Ubac

COULD this be another sign that the Arroyo presidency is on its way out?

The media identification cards distributed this week by the House Public

HOUSE/ A17

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

London gets lucky as new bombing attempts fail

LONDON—Police were urgently hunting for four presumed would-be suicide attackers on Friday after a virtually identical repeat of the July 7 London bombings only avoided fresh carnage when the explosives apparently failed to go off.

The swift succession of events on Thursday lunchtime, when bombers targeted three Un-

LONDON/ A18

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Impeachment case in peril

GMA lawyer's maneuver catches opposition flatfooted

By Michael Lim Ubac

ACCUSING the administration of "bastardizing" constitutional processes, opposition lawmakers in the House of Representatives yesterday threatened to abandon their legal option of removing President Macapagal-Arroyo by impeachment.

The opposition threat was sparked by the filing by one Pedro Ferrer, a little known attorney said to be close to Malacañang, of a formal answer to the original impeachment complaint presented to the House by another lawyer, Oliver Lozano.

Opposition congressmen feared Ferrer's move, which caught them flatfooted, could be used by the majority to block their plan to file a supplemental—and stronger—impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

An opposition lawmaker said Ferrer's wife, also a lawyer named Elenita Bulaong Ferrer, was a classmate of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo at the Ateneo de Manila University and head of the First Gentleman's legal aid program.

Senior House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano was bristling at a press conference.

"They are the ones who preempted us by filing an impeachment complaint. Now, they themselves want to dictate the contents of the complaint? What is this—a moro-moro, a zarzuela?" Cayetano asked.

Explaining the danger posed by the Ferrer document, Cayetano said that under the rules of court, the complainant was barred from amending the complaint once it was answered by the accused.

"It's a legal ploy. In a court of

IMPEACHMENT/ A17

PDI PHOTO

FLASHBACK to the Sona, July 23, 2001 at the Batasang Pambansa: President Arroyo presents 3 children from Payatas who loaded their dreams of a better life on paper boats on the Pasig River floating toward the Palace.

FOUR YEARS later Erwin Dolera, now 13, a sophomore at the Payatas High School is the third best student in his class. JOAN BONDOC

Boy with dreams on paper boat a GMA loyalist

By Christian V. Esguerra

CRITICS of President Macapagal-Arroyo can learn a thing or two from one of the three "Payatas Boys" she presented to the public in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) four years ago.

One of the boys, Erwin Dolera, now 13, is anything but amused by the string of protest actions organized to push the President out of Malacañang.

"These people are the ones creating the problem," he told the INQUIRER in an interview at his family's shanty in Payatas, Quezon City last Thursday. "They should stop doing that and just allow her to finish her term."

The boy has every reason to defend the embattled woman in Malacañang. She is undoubtedly his President, having sent him to a decent school and given his family a modest but thriving livelihood.

Then a meek and skinny 9-year-old, Erwin and several other children from Payatas, endeared themselves to Ms Arroyo when they floated paper boats containing their wish of a bright future along the Pasig River.

Most of them lost family members who had been buried alive in an avalanche of trash at the Payatas dump on July 10, 2000.

Ms Arroyo got wind of their "paper boat dreams" from news reports and decided to help them. She later invited Jayson Banogon, Jomer Pabalan and Erwin to her Sona, turning them into poster boys of her program for the poor.

Four years later, Erwin is a silent but staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo. His loyalty to his benefactor, it seemed, was not blindly forged from a debt of gratitude.

The more mature Erwin said he could not embrace the idea of people taking to the streets without really contributing anything in the process.

"I'm sure many of them join without

BOY/ A17

Ping's 'Tsona' cites ₱8.3-B 'bridges to nowhere'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DELIVERING what he claimed to be the "True State of the Nation Address (Tsona)," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo that she could be charged with plunder for the construction of P8.3 billion worth of "bridges that lead to nowhere."

"This bridge is one for Ripley's," Lacson said in his scathing "Tsona" at the Manila Hotel as a picture of a span of a bridge was shown on a screen. "As you cross this bridge in Zamboanga Sibugay, you end up...nowhere! A bridge in the middle of a ricefield that leads to nowhere," Lacson said.

Lacson, who finished third in the May 2004 election, said the anomalous construction of bailey bridges in remote parts of the country during the 2004 campaign period could be included in the impeachment com-

PING'S/ A18

Palace declares Sona day a holiday

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning, Jocelyn R. Uy, Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

FOR MALACAÑANG, the intention is to allow all Filipinos to listen to the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Macapagal-Arroyo. But for her critics it could simply be a ploy to keep people out of the streets.

Yesterday, Malacañang declared Monday, July 25, a special nonworking holiday in Metro Manila to enable Filipinos to hear the President's Sona where she will outline her plans and goals for the country during the opening of Congress.

"In order to encourage and give opportunity to Filipinos to listen to the address of the President and be involved in the affairs of the country, it would be best to declare Monday, July 25, 2005, as a special day in Metro," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said through Proclamation No. 880.

This is the first time that Malacañang declared a holiday during the Sona which would give workers a three-day holiday break.

But the holiday will only be observed in Metro Manila, a traditional hotbed of the opposition. Nearly 8 out of 10 Metro Manila residents want the President out of Malacañang whether through resignation or impeachment or any unconstitutional means.

However, government workers providing police, security, fire protection, custodial, rescue and emergency are expected to report for work to provide regular ser-

PALACE/ A17

Larrañaga turns to GMA as last option

By Volt Contreras and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

WITH her legal options running out, the mother of Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, whose death sentence was affirmed Thursday by the Supreme Court in connection with the Chiong sisters rape-murder case, said she was now considering going to President Macapagal-Arroyo just to insist on her son's innocence.

"The ruling doesn't change the truth and if given a chance to see her (Ms Arroyo) I will tell her the real story," Margarita Gonzalez-Larrañaga told the INQUIRER yesterday following the court decision.

In its 21-page decision, the Supreme Court en banc denied separate motions for reconsideration filed by five of seven convicts—Paco, Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Caño and Ariel Balansag.

Ms Larrañaga said Paco, her youngest child and scion of the politically entrenched Osmeña clan of Cebu, was "devastated" by news that the high court had denied his appeal and that of his four fellow convicts.

"I don't want to say that the judicial process has ended because new evidence might be uncovered and the case could be reopened," she said in a phone interview.

She said she was hoping that those responsible for the gruesome murders would surface after an "attack of conscience."

"Miracles can still happen," she said.

While still based in Cebu, Ms Larrañaga said she and her Spanish husband Manuel had been renting an apartment in Muntinlupa City since 2000, near the national penitentiary.

Paco, 27, and the other convicts had been languishing in jail for eight years, half of the period spent in Cebu

LARRAÑAGA/ A17

LARRAÑAGA: Devastated

AFP doubts if YOU still exists; Palace orders probe

By Luige A. del Puerto, Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

THE ARMED Forces yesterday cast doubts on the existence of a clandestine group of officers allegedly seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Malacañang warned it would use its full constitutional power to deal with military adventurists.

But the Palace did not dismiss outright the published threats from the group called Young Officers Union, saying it would look into the matter.

"As far as the Armed Forces is concerned, YOU has been deactivated and we haven't monitored any more activities from the group," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP public information chief.

Pascual also said the words used were "too revolutionary" to have come from the military.

AFP DOUBTS/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/23/05

Truth body 'purely fact-finding'

Malacañang says it has no power to issue verdict on GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE TRUTH commission that Malacañang is thinking of forming will not have the power to issue a verdict on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in the 2004 elections, a Palace official clarified yesterday.

"It will be purely fact-finding and recommendatory," said Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo at a Bishops-Businessmen's Conference forum in Makati.

"It can recommend further investigation or new legislation but it won't be prosecutorial, legislative or adjudicatory," Saludo said.

Saludo said the commission would leave it to other institutions like Congress, sitting as an impeachment body, to determine issues such as whether the President should stay or be removed from office.

The process should be "fact-finding, not fault-finding," which is the job of other institutions, he said.

Saludo was at the BBC forum to present Malacañang's thoughts on the proposed truth commission which the BBC had proposed and which the President agreed to establish.

He said the Palace, particularly its legal team, was still "on the level of general ideas" over the actual scope of power and responsibility of the planned commission.

Saludo said Malacañang was also asking Congress to "empower" the commission through a legislative act.

Speaking to reporters before the start of the forum, Saludo said a truth commission would likely not be formed in time for the President's State of the Nation Address on Monday. He said nothing had also been decided on who would comprise the commission.

"We'll give it more days to ensure that it will be acceptable to all sectors," Saludo said.

Speaking at the same forum, Christian Monsod, former chair of the Commission on Elections, said a truth commission would be a "non-starter" without legislative action.

"There has to be interaction with Congress," he said, pointing out that a mere administrative order won't help quell fears that the body, being solely a presidential creation, will be beholden to the executive.

CABINET Secretary Ricardo Saludo clarifies the Palace position on the powers of the Truth Commission at the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference forum at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City Friday. At right are Vitaliano Nañagas II, Dr. Mahar Mangahas and Vicente Jayme. LYN RILLON

A Republic Act from Congress would also give the commission more authority, such as the power to issue subpoena and compel witnesses to appear before a hearing.

Monsod, one of the names being floated to head the commission, was apprehensive over the possibility that the body would function alongside an impeachment process.

"There are too many pitfalls in doing them at the same time. With the impeachment going on, witnesses might say (they'd) rather go to the impeachment or ask, 'Can this body do its work?' " he said.

Another key aspect that needs to be resolved is the question of how far the commission could go in looking into the political crisis triggered by the release of the tapes containing the President's allegedly wiretapped conversations, he said.

Monsod said he would rather the commission focus on the allegation that Ms Arroyo had rigged the results of the 2004 election and deal with "questions of systematic fraud, how it was done," and possibly repair the "damaged" institution of the Comelec.

But in investigating possible vote-rigging, the body should not go as far as opening ballots, he said.

"(Doing so) might be a bad precedent and in fact dilute and weaken the mandate of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal," he warned.

Asked if he would accept a job at the commission, Monsod replied: "If it's a true and just creation of Congress and the President and if the process is transparent, those invited should seriously consider the offer because it would be a great service to the country."

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin suggested in the same forum that the commission start its investigation with the tapes containing Ms Arroyo's alleged conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"That's what really began the controversy," he said, adding that the commission should also find a way to establish connection with bodies like the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to determine the authenticity of the tapes.

Debate over truth commish splits GMA allies in Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—The debate over the proposed creation of a truth commission has placed on opposite sides many political allies in Oriental Negros and Eastern Visayas.

Oriental Negros Gov. George P. Arnaiz is for a truth commission but his close allies in the province said it was "unnecessary."

Arnaiz noted that since the creation of the commission was suggested by the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference of the Philippines, "we might as well respect that suggestion."

Malacañang took up the BBC suggestion and announced plans to create a truth commission to look into the alleged conspiracy between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the 2004 presidential election.

Oriental Negros Vice Gov. Jose "Petit" Baldado said there was no need for such a commission because there were existing laws and processes for investigating wrongdoing among public officials.

He said the commission would also be vulnerable to suspicion of bias since the President, who is at the center of the controversy, is the one who is creating the commission.

Baldado and other provincial officials, including provincial legal officer Erwin Vergara, believe that the allegations against the President would be best addressed in an impeachment.

However, Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the Governors League of the Philippines, believes that a truth commission could help resolve the political impasse and criticized the opposition for opposing its creation.

"We thought they are after the truth. Now they are blocking the truth by opposing the creation of a truth commission. This only means that they are not really interested in the truth but in political power," said Evardone, who is also the spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (Ulap).

Tacloban City councilor Wilson Uy, president of the 1,800-strong Philippine Councilors League of the Philippines-Eastern Visayas chapter, said he would rather that an impeachment process be the one to determine if the President was guilty of electoral fraud.

"With only a very limited number of members, it will be very easy for (commission members) to (give in) to pressure. And besides, it will be the President who will create it. It cannot be expected to come up with a result that is not biased against her," Uy said.

Rep. Florencio Noel, who represents the An Waray sectoral group, believes that a truth commission will only confuse the people now that the opposition is pushing for the filing of an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo. *Romy G. Amarado and Joey A. Gabieta PDI Visayas Bureau*

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2 ex-congressmen slug it out for top DepEd post

By Alcuin Papa

TWO former congressmen are slugging it out for the top post at the Department of Education.

Eduardo Nachura, the former congressman from Samar who once served as education undersecretary, and Augusto Syjuco, who represented Iloilo in the House of Representatives and is the current head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), are interested in the DepEd post based on three sets of "endorsements" that found their way into education reporters' hands.

Of the two, Syjuco is the one actively lobbying for the position.

In a phone interview with reporters, Syjuco said he had written to President Macapagal-Arroyo to show his interest in reforming the education system.

NACHURA

Syjuco said he has already drafted a paper on his plans for the education department once he is appointed to head it.

Syjuco said he can resolve the problem of text book shortages and fully enhancing the reading and English proficiency of students. He added he would also focus on the reading skills of students entering college.

He said he also wanted high school students to decide on their chosen profession and enhance their skills for that profession.

"This is what we do in Tesda, we develop their skills. We can also do this in DepEd," Syjuco said.

Syjuco said he had talked to Nachura and asked him to give way to him, but Nachura refused. "He said he also wanted the position. I tried to reach out to him to make things work," Syjuco revealed.

He claimed to have more experience than Nachura and would be better qualified as DepEd secretary.

"I have certain qualities and characteristics that a DepEd secretary should have. I think I am the only one right now that is qualified," he said, adding that he already has the support of some 35,000 teachers in Metro Manila.

A letter from the Philippine Association of School Superintendents, the National Capital Region Parents Teachers Community Associations Federation Inc., the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, the National Movement for Basic Sectors and the National Council of Women of the Philippines has endorsed Syjuco for the post, citing his "practical policies and effective governance."

However, two other letters of endorsement, one from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and another which is said to have originated from unidentified DepEd officials asked the President to appoint Nachura.

SYJUCO

The officials said Nachura, who was education undersecretary during the Ramos administration, has enough experience to run the department.

"We are optimistic that the next secretary should have a background in academe, just like former education chief Edilberto de Jesus," the letter said.

Domingo Alidon, the president of the DepEd National Employees Union, and Juan Miguel Luz, the DepEd undersecretary for finance and administration Juan Miguel Luz have said that the replacement of resigned education secretary Florencio Abad has to be inclined to the academe and experienced in the inner workings of the department.

Insiders at the department said this was an endorsement of Nachura, a law professor who is the dean of the Arellano University Law School.

Atienza's letter to the President said Nachura was highly qualified to head the department because of his past assignment as education undersecretary and his former posts with the congressional committees on higher education and basic education.

Atienza is a staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo having been one of the main organizers of the massive rally in support of the President at the Luneta last week.

Mike Arroyo man quits LLDA post

By Nikko Dizon

ONE OF the reportedly most trusted men of President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is said to have resigned as head of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

Edgardo Manda reportedly resigned as LLDA general manager yesterday, reliable sources told the INQUIRER.

Manda did not answer the INQUIRER's repeated calls on his mobile phone.

But a source from the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) was certain of the former airport chief's resignation, adding that it is in fact, "irrevocable."

The source, however, did not say why Manda had resigned.

MANDA

Manda was MIAA general manager for three years before he was transferred by President Arroyo to the LLDA last year.

Manda is among the prominent "FG boys," a reference to presidential appointees closely associated with the First Gentleman.

His replacement at the MIAA, Alfonso Cusi, is also rumored to be another "FG boy."

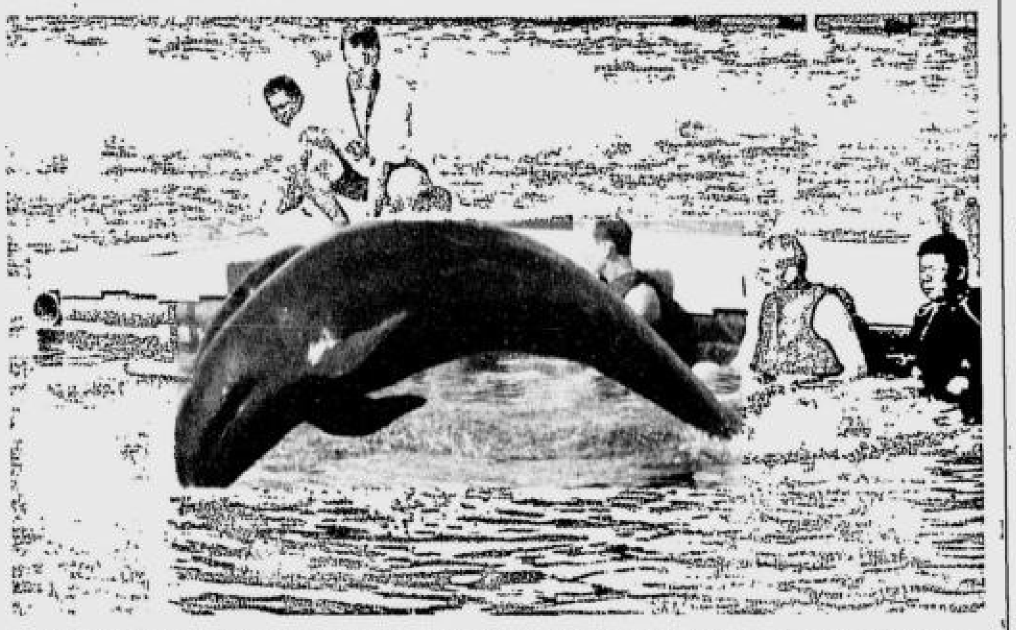
Sought for comment by the INQUIRER, Cusi said he was "surprised" to hear of Manda's resignation.

However, Cusi dispelled rumors that he would be turning in his resignation as well.

"There are still many things to be done here (at Miaa) and we continue to work," Cusi said.

Subic marine park to get new whales

By Blanche S. Rivera



A FALSE killer whale jumps out of the water as its trainers watch at the Ocean Adventure in Subic. The marine park expects one million visitors this year. PDI FILE PHOTO

BRAVING the criticisms of animal rights activists, the Ocean Adventure marine park in Subic is planning to acquire more animals to replace the three whales that died in the past four years.

Ocean Adventure executives revealed the plan two weeks after the park lost its most popular false killer whale, 13-year-old "Hook," whose death from a suspected gastrointestinal illness has renewed animal rights advocates' calls for the park's closure.

Timothy Desmond, the park's chief executive officer, said Ocean Adventure needed more animals for its expansion program as it expects to park visitors to reach one million for the first time this year.

Company officials would not give details concerning the acquisition of new marine mammals.

"We keep this information to ourselves for our own protection and for the welfare of our animals and our staff," president John Corcoran told reporters at the park.

Corcoran cited incidents in the United States in which overzealous activists conducted operations that were "illegal and dangerous and jeopardized human life and the animals."

"We need more animals, we have plans for acquisition but we can't discuss it," Desmond said.

But he clarified that Ocean Adventure's preference was to acquire "doomed" animals as part of its policy to rescue such animals from communities that would otherwise kill them for food.

Only if they cannot find "doomed" animals would the park "go to the wild, do the surveys, do all the ethical things required and get animals for this use. It's a very consistent, very simple philosophy," said Desmond.

"The benefit to the species has to outweigh the cost to the species when you do anything with any animal," he said.

Desmond said he was willing to engage animal rights activists in a discussion of ethical principles, expressing confidence in the park's ethics when it comes to animal acquisition.

"Everybody that deals with animals has an ethical issue. We are conservationists, and our philosophy is expressed in this company... Part of our choice was accepting animals that would not last that long," he said.

"There's nothing like this in the Philippines, and the Philippines needed a resource like Ocean Adventure... We know that what we're doing is right. We're making a difference," Corcoran said.

Market forces, heavy rains jack up prices of canned sardines, sugar

By Abigail L. Ho

MARKET forces and heavy rains have caused prices of canned sardines, processed milk, cement, refined sugar and some vegetables to go up in the past days.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry's latest monitoring report, prices of canned sardines and milk increased by 50 centavos to P1 even as manufacturers claimed they had not raised prices.

While the price of hard flour remained at P600 per 25-kilogram bag, that of soft flour rose by P10 per bag due to greater demand from manufacturers of instant noodles.

Cement prices went up by P2 .

However, prices of steel bars are going down because of the declining world market price of billets, one of the product's major raw materials.

A report submitted by the Department of Agriculture to the National price Coordinating Council showed that prices of some vegetables, particularly tomatoes and eggplants, have gone up by as much as P5 a kilo due to the recent heavy rains.

But the prices of ampalaya and string beans have gone down. The prices of cabbage, onions and kangkong are unchanged.

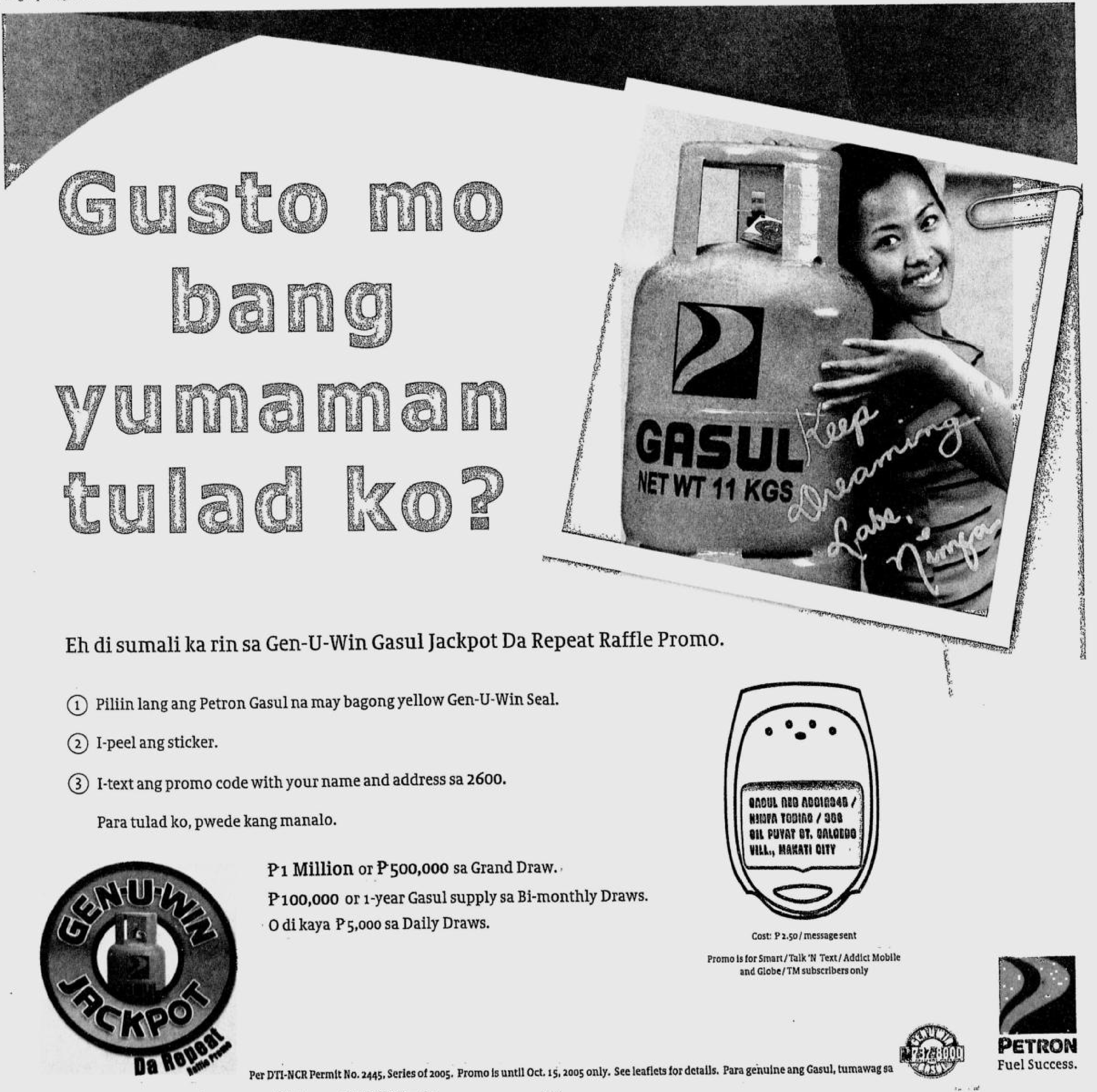
Refined sugar went up by P1 a kilo over the same period.

The report attributed this price hike to "irregularities in the distribution supply in Metro Manila brought about by the closure of some sugar mills."

Prices of beef, fish, chicken and pork have also remained unchanged since last month. Beef and fish prices have been constant for the past three months.

Fully dressed chicken still retails at P110 a kilo, pork liempo at P145 a kilo and bangus at P85 a kilo.

The prices of other DTI-monitored commodities, including luncheon meat, corned beef, meat loaf, instant noodles, condiments, laundry soap and detergent bar have not changed since April.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A CALL FOR RESPECT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) is deeply concerned with the political crisis gripping our nation.

The Philippine Medical Association calls on all Filipinos of whatever political persuasion, ideology or gender to always respect the rule of law. The association also calls on the government to respect the right of the people to freedom of expression and information.

Government officials, whether they be from the majority or from the opposition, must be aware that they are first and foremost the servants of the people. The association appeals to such government officials to consider as paramount the plight and welfare of the people in all their actions.

Violence must not be resorted to as this will only cause untold miseries on our already suffering people and may lead to economic collapse of our nation.

Frequent changes in government through procedures and processes outside of the bounds of the Constitution leads to political instability, drives and scares aware foreign and domestic investors and downgrades our nation's credit rating.

We urge all our countrymen to unite, to defend democracy and uphold the Constitution.

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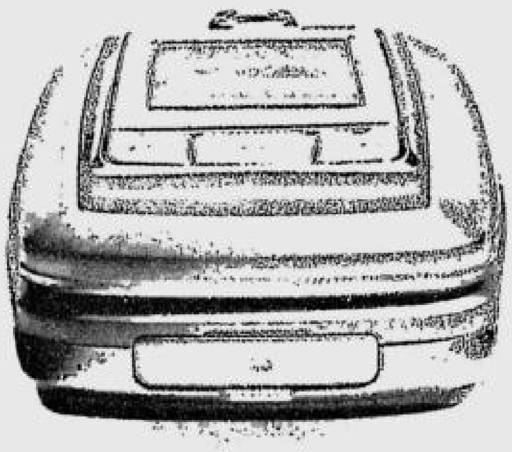

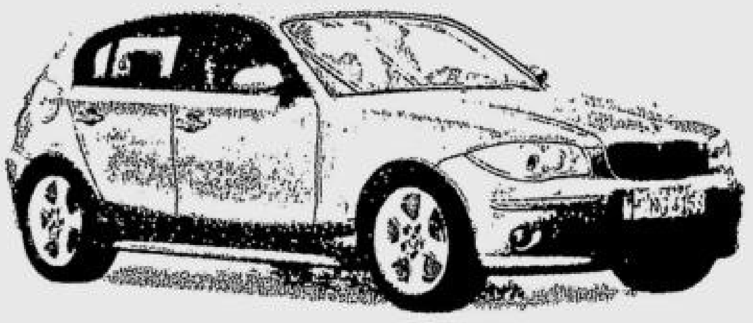

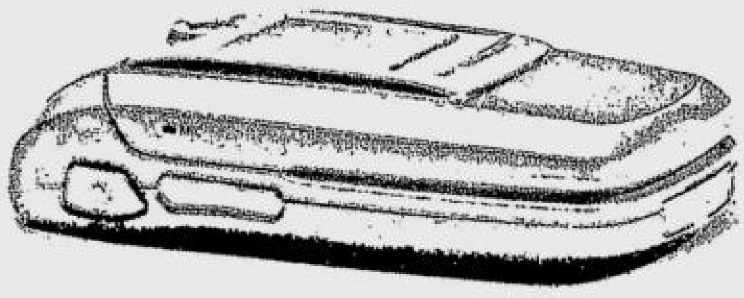

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Drilon will keep seat but not for long, says Miriam

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WITH the Senate split three ways, Senate President Franklin Drilon will likely keep his seat, but not for long, according to administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Malacañang reportedly wants to boot out Drilon—who broke away from President Macapagal-Arroyo taking two other Liberal Party senators with him—and install a friendly new majority because of the looming threat of an impeachment trial for Ms Arroyo.

Sleepless nights

Santiago conceded that Drilon may still be the Senate President the day after Congress resumes sessions on Monday.

But she said Drilon would surely have sleepless nights after that.

"The tectonic plates are moving, but for the moment they are hidden beneath the earth's crust," she said.

Several senators are reportedly interested in taking over from Drilon but none of them, whether from the administration or the opposition, has been able to muster the 13 senators needed to elect a new Senate President.

Santiago, who is believed to be Malacañang's bet, and Sen. Manuel Villar, who has a term-sharing agreement with Drilon, are among Drilon's rivals.

Hesitant

"If senators hesitate to unseat Senator Drilon, it is because most of them don't want to disturb the present distribution of committee chairmanships," Santiago said.

She said contenders for the Senate presidency normally offer the committee chairmanships to court votes in a campaign that takes time.

"If Senator Drilon manages to keep his seat, one reason will be that his rivals are still assessing whether they can attract enough malcontents among the senators," she said.

Santiago said the impasse in the Senate was partly because of Malacañang's non-interference stance.

Keeping distance

"If President Arroyo and her staff are keeping their distance, it is because at this time her own plate is full. She wants to disengage from the irksome process of changing a Senate President because she would be compelled to sit down with every administration senator," Santiago said.

Santiago said Drilon is on shaky ground because he can count on only six out of 23 senators—himself, Juan Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, Rodolfo Biazon, Mar Roxas and Ramon Magsaysay.

"He can be ousted anytime," Santiago said.

Drilon's bloc is part of the 14-member majority. The opposition counts nine senators though two of them are seen as friendly to Ms Arroyo.

Groupings

Santiago said that apart from the Drilon's bloc, there is the so-called Wednesday group of Villar which includes Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Pia Cayetano and Lito Lapid.

She said a third grouping in the opposition bloc is the Estrada bloc composed of the ousted President's wife Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and their son Jinggoy Estrada, and Juan Ponce Enrile who chairs Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

"The remaining senators are waiting for developments. When he sits on the podium with Speaker Jose de Venecia at Monday's joint session, Senator Drilon will have long, long thoughts," Santiago said.

FVR FORMULA

Once more with feeling. Former President Fidel V. Ramos reiterates his proposal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately support a shift to the parliamentary system of government at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines Friday in Makati City. AP

Communist rebels attack 2 cell phone sites in Sorsogon

NDF showing its true colors–Palace

SUSPECTED communist guerrillas attacked two cell phone transmission towers Sorsogon province, police said yesterday.

In the first attack before dawn Thursday, guerrillas shot at the microwave antenna atop a tower operated by Globe Telecom in the town of Bulan, paralyzing its mobile phone operations, regional police chief Victor Boco said in a report to national police headquarters in Manila.

Two hours later, suspected rebels fired at another Globe cellular site in Pilar town in the same province, causing slight damage, Boco said.

He said police were pursuing the attackers.

Police and the military have blamed similar attacks in the past on phone companies' refusal to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the rebels.

Communist Party of the Philippines leaders warned on Thursday that their military arm, the New People's Army, would step up offensives in rural areas to help oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is facing accusations that she rigged last year's election and that her family received illegal gambling pay-offs.

Communist leaders living in exile in the Netherlands also said they won't resume peace talks aimed at ending a 35-year-old communist insurgency until the President is gone.

The peace process broke down last August over the rebels' demands to be removed from lists of terrorist organizations in the United States and the European Union.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the government was not surprised by the statement from the National Democratic Front, the umbrella group that represents the communist guerrillas in the talks.

"The real reason why the NDF is retreating from the peace talks is that it has been forcing the government to convince the international community to withdraw the terrorist tag attached to the NPA, to no avail," he said in a statement.

"Now the NDF has finally shown its true colors as a terrorist organization," he said. *AP*

Taiwanese escapes from kidnappers

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A Taiwanese businessman was able to escape from his kidnappers in San Pedro, Laguna on Thursday night.

Supt. Sergio Dimandal, San Pedro police chief, identified the victim as Fong Chen, 52, a Taiwanese national and president of Suntory International Commercial Corp. with business address in Caloocan City.

Chen was spotted by a resident coming down the roof of a house in Argon St., Phase B, Pacita Complex in Barangay San Vicente.

The resident thought that Chen, who was wearing only shorts and an undershirt, was a burglar and immediately summoned barangay watchmen who took him to the police.

Dimandal said investigators had a hard time interviewing the businessman as he could hardly speak Filipino or English. Police were able to get his identification through his driver's license and an expired alien certificate of registration and other documents.

Chen told investigators that he was abducted by four unidentified armed men in Zapote, Las Piñas last July 17. The blindfolded Chen was apparently brought to the Pacita Complex by the suspects, Dimandal said in a mobile phone interview.

Chen also said that the kidnappers demanded a P5 million ransom from his family.

The Taiwanese businessman said he was able to escape from the safe house after slugging it out with a lone guard and crawled out of a small hole intended for an air-conditioning unit.

Dimandal said he sent a police team to the house where Chen was supposedly held but the suspects were gone. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AFP doubts if YOU still exists; Palace orders probe

From page A1

"It is not a statement from a rightist group [but] more a statement from a leftist group," said Pascual, noting how it attacked foreign intervention and "the whole system of government."

"If that was really a YOU [statement], it should have focused on the military aspect," he said.

Opposition hand?

Half jesting, Pascual added that no military officer could have produced such a well-written piece in English which was released to some members of media.

He insinuated that opposition politicians may have had a hand in it.

"I do not want to speculate but you can see that the statement was released at 6 p.m. (Thursday) and this morning Sen. (Panfilo) Lacson made a statement. I do not want to add political color to it but you can see the scenario," Pascual added.

YOU founder Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim said the statement did not come from YOU, adding that any group could easily claim to be YOU members even if they were not.

"The former members of YOU are leading quiet lives," said Lim, now the commander of the First Scout Rangers Regiment based in Bulacan.

Reyes orders probe

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes was not taking things for granted.

"We have asked our PNP (Philippine National Police) and the AFP to look deeper into this and validate and find out if these are true," Reyes said.

Asked if YOU, which staged a failed coup against President Corazon Aquino in 1989, had the firepower and the men to topple the government, Reyes said these were things he wanted validated.

In its statement, YOU said it was breaking the peace deal it entered into with the government in 1995 and called on "all men and women who believe in our race ... to act now, not later, to bring down the Arroyo government and save the country from further ruin."

Propaganda tool

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace remained confident in the "loyal and apolitical stand of the military command, particularly the young officers."

"The alleged YOU statement is another propaganda tool used by those desperately trying to exploit the military to push a power grab, and this will never work," Bunye aid.

"Any and all forms of military adventurism by a misguided few will be dealt with by the full force of constitutional authority."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said statements such as that YOU supposedly issued should be treated with caution.

"In these times, we should not believe in things being said in papers that are being circulated," Gonzales said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

He said statements such as that attributed to YOU normally came out when there were threats against the government.

Spent force?

"We will look into this," he said. "We cannot just say this is true. We will study and determine what is true and assess the capability of this group claiming to be able to bring down the government."

The Air Force brushed aside the significance of the group claiming to be YOU.

"We consider that in this instance, they are a mere nuisance," Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said.

Padilla said that as far as the military was concerned, the YOU was already a spent force.

"It's not a serious threat anymore," Padilla said.

Nevertheless, Padilla said, the PAF's counterintelligence operatives would still "definitely scan" the service to determine if there were soldiers participating in efforts to unseat Ms Arroyo.

PNP investigating

PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said those who signed the statement issued under the name of YOU hid behind "pseudo names" and added: "I have been in constant touch with our young officers, as well as our middle level officers and senior officers of the PNP, and the things that they had purportedly stated in the statement have never been discussed."

He said the PNP was investigating the veracity of the statement.

Lomibao reiterated the PNP's loyalty to Ms Arroyo and the Constitution.

Composed of junior officers, YOU came into being in 1988 as a "younger version" of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan, or RAM, the group which mutinied against Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Getting on the bus

Short of admitting that several officers were indeed talking about the ouster of Ms Arroyo, a high-ranking intelligence officer said they were simply trying to "get on the bus."

"*Nagdi-discuss sila, baka maiwan sa arangkadahan* (They are just discussing, they don't want to be left behind," said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said these were "very few officers" and far from being an organized group.

In Lucena City, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, commander of the Southern Luzon Command, downplayed the supposed resurrection of YOU.

"I was surprised when I read the news. The INQUIRER should have exercised more prudence in filing the report. That YOU statement could have been written by just anyone," Cabuay said.

Beautiful names

Former President Fidel Ramos, for his part, questioned the authenticity of the group that surfaced in the name of YOU, and the credibility of the people behind it.

Talking to reporters, Ramos said it was "obviously a young group," and was not the one which was part of a coalition of rebel soldiers who were granted amnesty after they signed a peace agreement with the government in 1995 during his administration.

"First of all, you must look at all the names presented by YOU. They are all symbolic names. They're very beautiful names but they're not real persons. Second, the YOU that I know of used to be headed by Colonel, now Gen. Danny Lim, and he himself has distanced from this YOU. He's not involved in that. So that tells us something," Ramos said.

He added: "Who are they to secede from the Philippine government agreement when it was done with a coalition? Let them withdraw first from that coalition if indeed their statement is true," Ramos said.

"And if they are really soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, they should first get out of the military and pursue their reforms outside of it, instead of hiding under the cloak of being officers of the Republic and said we're going to fight the Republic that we are pledged to defend and protect. What is that?"

Ramos cautioned the media and the public not to take at face value all information that they got. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Nikko Dizon; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 23, 2005
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Ex 24:3-8
Gospel:	Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told his disciples another parable, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

When the plants sprouted and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

He answered them: 'This is the work of an enemy.' They asked him: 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He told them: 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them just grow together until harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn."

Commentary

Again we hear of the seed sown in a field—the Word of God preached in a community. And realistically we find ourselves in a field with people who do not believe and some who claim to, but don't practice according to the word. And we're stuck together until judgment. We are to grow into wheat for the harvest: food for the hungry, justice and peace for the earth. As the parables turn, they impinge on one another. It's hard to remain faithful in a field with others—community, that is also peopled by those who resist or fight those who do believe, yet alone those on the fringes, a seed fallen here and there in clumps of thorns, on the path, stolen away. And some fields produce great harvests every year, others don't. And it is every year—the liturgical cycle where we come around to being harvested at the end of ordinary time and realize that we will be judged, separated out and our lives will be seen either as bread for the weary and hope for the discouraged, or those that contributed to the violence and evil of the world. Are we even in a community that struggles with the Word together year after year?

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Ping: Plotters 'regrouping'

By TJ Burgonio

SOME military officers are increasingly becoming "disenchanted" with the administration amid charges that President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to rig last year's elections, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said yesterday.

"There's a growing disenchantment and the agitation is strong," Lacson said, citing what he said were his sources in the military.

The senator also said he had received reports that military officers involved in coup attempts against the Aquino administration in 1987 and 1989 were "regrouping."

"Whatever they're planning, I hope it would not result in a bloody confrontation with our comrades, especially in the armed services, and will not wreak havoc on our fellow countrymen," he said in a press briefing.

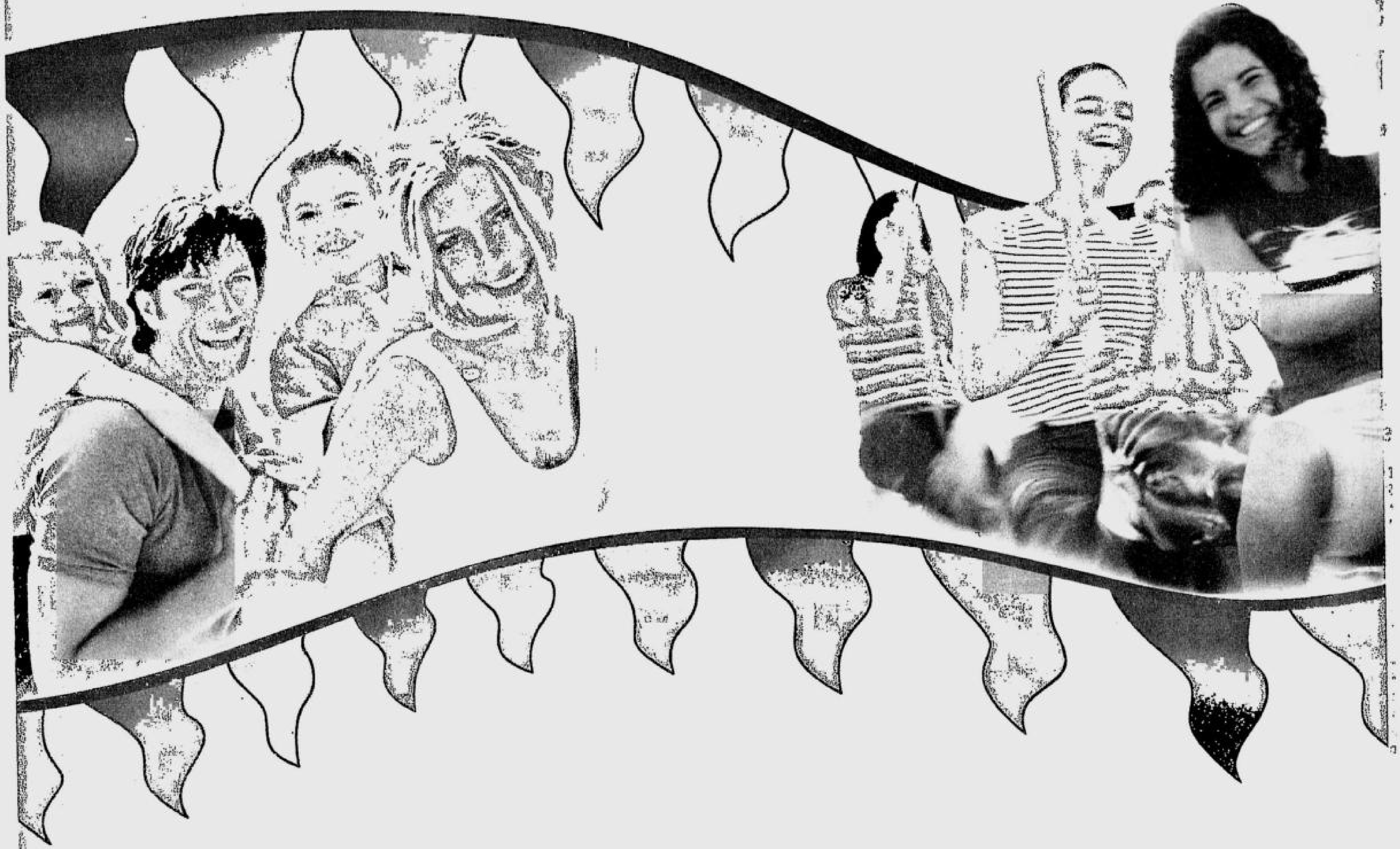
Asked if he approved of a military-backed people's revolt, he said: "If there's chaos in the streets, there's danger, and fighting between two opposing groups erupts, then I think it is incumbent, it is the mandate of the AFP and the PNP to intervene and protect the people in the street."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, however, said that the coup plotters in the '80s, who now hold key posts in the military, did not pose a threat to the government.

Biazon said that he remained in touch with the old YOU members and had a meeting with some of them a couple of weeks ago.

During the meeting, they pushed for the investigation of military officials allegedly involved in rigging last year's elections, he said.

Biazon said they also voiced support for the constitutional process in resolving the political crisis.



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Pakistan arrests another 100 militants in crackdown

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan security forces arrested nearly 100 more suspected Muslim militants overnight as hardliners readied protests Friday against President Pervez Musharraf's response to the London bombings.

Musharraf, under international pressure to act against extremists, told the nation in a televised address late Thursday that he would tighten the rein on Islamic schools in a bid to stamp out militancy and those preaching hate.

Within hours of the speech, security forces again raided Islamic schools or *madrassas* which have been in the spotlight since it emerged that three of the bombers in the July 7 London attacks had recently been in Pakistan.

"During raids overnight in all the four provinces, around 90 more suspected militants have been rounded up and the number of people in preventive detention is more than 300 now," said an interior ministry official monitoring the campaign.

Raids targeted shops selling "hate material" in print, audio and video form, and both police and intelligence services were instructed to arrest anyone inciting violence during sermons at Friday prayers, the official said.

"It is the firm resolve of the government and we will not spare anyone found to be breaching the law," he said.

An alliance of fundamentalist Muslim parties, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), called for rallies outside mosques on Friday and denounced the actions of Musharraf, a key Western ally since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"Musharraf has resumed the crackdown on religious seminaries and arrests of Islamic scholars and students to please Washington and London," the MMA said in a statement, condemning the "global conspiracy against Islam."

In his national address, Musharraf—who has been waging an often unpopular campaign against extremists and has survived at least two assassination attempts by suspected extremists—said there could be no letup on terrorism.

He appealed to moderates to pray for "Pakistan's deliverance from the menace of extremism" and said his nation would stand together with Britain "to the end, until we emerge victorious."

But he also had blunt words for Britain, where all the suspected bombers had been "born, bred and educated" and where he said Muslim militant groups continued to operate.

He named two groups, the Hizbul Tahreer and Al Muhajroon, which he said were responsible for spreading a message of hate and violence.

"They had the audacity of passing an edict against my life and yet they operate with impunity," Musharraf said.

The Pakistani leader launched the crackdown after both Britain and the United States expressed concern about the possible preaching of hate and extremism in some of the country's 10,000 *madrassas*.

Pakistan has also arrested over 700 suspects linked to al-Qaida since the September 11 attacks, including the group's number three Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

But critics, including the government in neighboring Afghanistan, accuse Pakistan of failing to do enough to control Islamic militancy, and many analysts suspect al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is in hiding in Pakistan.

Analyst Monis Ahmar, a professor of international relations at Karachi University, pointed out one of the dilemmas for Musharraf as he tries to rein in extremists.

He said Islamic militants had in the past received government support to fight against the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and in the conflict against India over the disputed state of Kashmir. *AFP*

BLAIR REUTERS

London bombings fail to damage Blair... yet

By Mike Peacock

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair urged Britons to be calm and resolute after a second spate of bombings in London on Thursday, but further attacks may tarnish his image as a statesman.

Blair was lauded at home and abroad after bombs on London's transport network killed more than 50 people two weeks ago.

But if Thursday's fresh attacks, albeit smaller and taking no lives, turn out to be the start of a trend, the political flak could start to fly.

Even before the latest incidents, Blair had been forced to fend off accusations that his backing for the Iraq war has made Britain a more dangerous place.

He did so again after four small explosions hit London's transport system, saying: "The roots of this are deep... the terrorist attacks go back over 10 years."

But an opinion poll this week showed most Britons thought their country was less safe as a result of Iraq.

A leaked document from British intelligence chiefs essentially said the same—that the terrorist threat had increased after the 2003 invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

More attacks on home soil and some of that mud may stick.

"You get a period when everyone rallies around," one member of Blair's Labour party said. "But you've seen the Iraq factor raised not long after the first bombs. It will happen again."

But Blair has sustained no political damage so far and his opponents have little choice but to support him, or look opportunistic.

And polls show that while he may not be liked by the public, the overwhelming majority still pick him as the leader they want in times of crisis.

Londoners—hardened by the blitz of World War Two and a prolonged bombing campaign by the Irish Republican Army—are ill-disposed to fracturing in front of a terrorist threat.

Historically, attacks like these have united not divided. *Reuters*

US House reauthorizes Patriot Act

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives, ignoring protests from civil liberties groups, renewed the USA Patriot Act on Thursday mostly along party lines, to make permanent the government's unprecedented powers to investigate suspected terrorists.

Sixteen provisions of the 2001 law, hastily enacted in response to the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, are due to expire at the end of this year unless renewed by Congress. President George W. Bush, who has repeatedly called on lawmakers to make the entire law permanent, commended lawmakers for approving the measure.

The House reauthorized the act by 257-171 with several changes designed to increase judicial and political oversight of some of its most controversial provisions. In the Republican-controlled chamber, 44 Democrats supported the bill while 14 Republicans opposed it.

Republicans repeatedly argued throughout the 11-hour debate that the latest explosions in London showed how urgent and important it was to renew the law.

"Passage of the... act is vital to maintaining the post-9/11 law enforcement and intelligence reforms that have reduced America's vulnerability to terrorist attack," Wisconsin Republican James Sensenbrenner told lawmakers. *Reuters*

Japanese women set long life record for 20th year

TOKYO—Japanese women had a life expectancy of 85.59 years in 2004, making them the world's longest-lived for the 20th consecutive year, the government said on Friday.

Japanese men trailed with a life expectancy of 78.64 years, which placed them second in terms of longevity after Icelandic men, who live an average of 78.8 years.

The government attributes Japanese longevity to a range of factors, including a healthy diet and improving medical care, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry said.

The Japanese diet tends to be rich in vegetables and fish products and relatively low in animal fats.

But long life expectancies combined with a tumbling birth rate may be storing up problems for Japan, where one in five of the population is over 65 and the figure is expected to jump to one in four in the next decade.

Women in Hong Kong were the second longest-lived in the world, according to Japanese government figures, followed by Swiss women. *Reuters*

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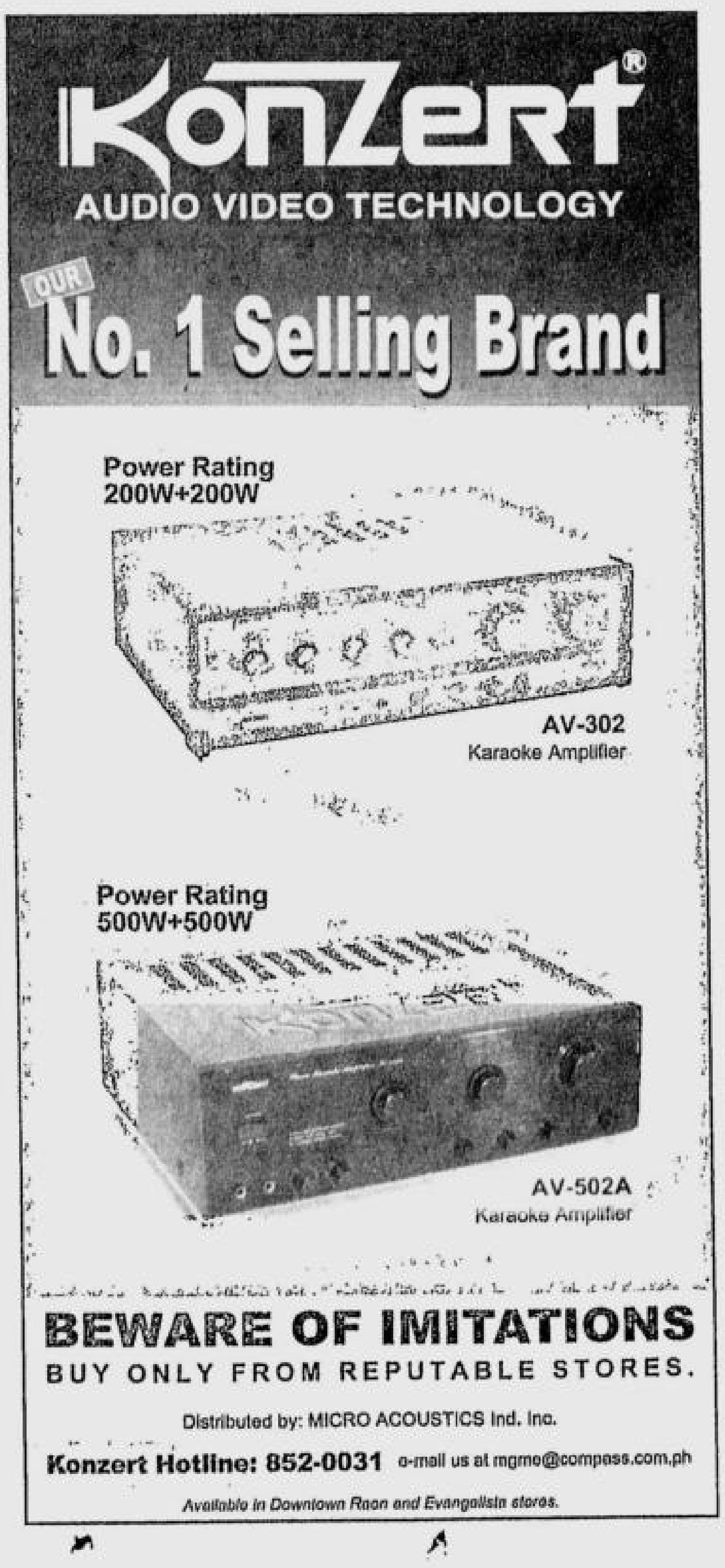

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MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)
COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS
ONE-WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS)

Non-Completion or Non-Compliance with the 36-unit MCLE Requirement during the 1st Compliance Period which ended on 31 December 2004, would mean being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and will not be permitted to practice law until such time as adequate proof of Compliance is received by the Supreme Court MCLE Governing Board. *LAWYERS MAY AVAIL OF U.P. LAW CENTER'S MCLE - ONE WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS) on JULY 25-29, 2005 AT THE LECTURE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, BOCOBO HALL, U.P. LAW CENTER*

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURERS
01 AUGUST	Legal Malpractice (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hector L. Hofilena
	Pre Trial and Trial Techniques (*Pre Trial and Trial Skills*)	Four (4) (2:00-6:00)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
26 July	Duties of the Lawyer to the Client (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	DCA Zenaida N. Elepano
	Recent Developments in Intellectual Property Laws (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (1:00-4:00)	Atty. Emma Carino- Francisco
27 July	Insolvency and Corporate Rehabilitation (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Atty. Manuel Yngson
	The Art of Direct and Cross Examination (*Oral Advocacy*)	Two (2))1:00-3:00)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
	Common Errors in Appellate Pleadings (*Legal Writing*)	Two (2) (3:15-5:15)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
28 July	Bill of Rights: Right to Privacy (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Florin T. Hilbay
	Updates in Civil Law (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (1:00-4:00)	Prof. Danilo L. Concepcion
	Practice and Procedure of Arbitration (*ADR*)	Two (2) (4:15-6:15)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
29 July	Recent Developments in Taxation Law (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Serafin U. Salvador
	Problems in International Law Practice before Philippine Courts (*International Law*)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	Court Annexed and Court Referred Mediation (*ADR*)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar

- Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance
- REGISTRATION FEE: P10,000.00/package or P1,200/session (morning or afternoon session) The fee is inclusive of heavy snacks, Lecture Handouts, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance, Notarization of Attorney's Compliance Report and Submission thereof to the MCLE Office (Only for those Availing of the Package)
- FOR DETAILS: PLEASE CALL 929-7137, 9205514 LOC. 208-209

Gunmen kidnap 2 Algerian envoys in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Gunmen kidnapped two Algerian envoys in Baghdad on Thursday, the latest in a series of guerrilla strikes that have driven diplomats from the Iraqi capital.

The gunmen, who were in two cars, snatched Algerian mission chief Ali Billaroussi off the street outside a restaurant along with diplomatic attaché Azzedine bin Fadi, police sources said.

"We deplore the kidnapping of diplomats accredited in Baghdad, all the more that Algeria has very good relations with the whole Iraqi people," Algeria's presidential representative Abdelaziz Belkhadem told Algerian state radio.

Earlier this month Egyptian envoy Ihab el-Sherif was kidnapped by al-Qaida's Iraq wing, which later said it had killed him and vowed more attacks on diplomats in Baghdad.

The Egyptian had been expected to become the first Arab diplomat in Baghdad with the full title of ambassador since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, an important symbolic milestone.

Two days after he was kidnapped, gunmen fired on cars carrying the envoys of Pakistan and Bahrain, triggering an exodus of diplomats. Some embassies scaled back their operations over security fears.

Iraq's US-backed government said the attacks were aimed at depriving it of international legitimacy, especially in the wider Arab world where nearly all countries are ruled by Sunnis seen as distrustful of Iraq's elected Shiite leaders.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari has blamed Saddam loyalists leading an Arab Sunni insurgency for much of the violence gripping Iraq, including attacks on diplomats. The Sunni Arab minority in Iraq were dominant under Saddam.

Saddam appeared before Iraq's war crimes tribunal on Thursday to hear new accusations against him, according to a video tape broadcast by the Arabic satellite television station Al Arabiya.

The footage showed a tribunal official reading out accusations against Saddam relating to the treatment of the Faili Kurds, a Shiite minority among the mostly Sunni Muslim Kurdish population.

Saddam protested several times, interrupting the official.

"I am detained and this is a game ... I am detained by the Iraqi government appointed by the Americans," he said, sitting across a table from judicial officials.

The Iraqi authorities and their US backers are hoping diplomacy and politics can defuse the insurgency by drawing restive Sunnis into the political process in Iraq and undermining their support from Arabs abroad.

But the insurgents have picked their targets carefully. On Tuesday, gunmen assassinated a Sunni member of the committee drawing up Iraq's new constitution, placing new questions over whether the draft can be completed by an Aug. 15 deadline.

Sunnis suspended their work on the committee in response. *Reuters*

BIG MOON OVER POSSEIDON

The full moon rises behind the ancient temple of Posseidon, in Sounio about 73 km southeast of Athens, July 21. The full moon appeared bigger than usual, as the distance between the Earth and its only natural satellite was the closest until 2007, at about 357,290 km. AP

Saddam says he's not given access to lawyer

BAGHDAD—Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein complained that he has not been allowed sufficient access to his lawyer in a new tape aired on Thursday by an Arabic satellite television station.

The footage, broadcast by Dubai-based Al Arabiya, showed the former Iraqi leader complaining to Judge Munir Haddad about only getting to see his lawyer when he is being questioned by investigative judges.

"The lawyer only sees his client when there is an investigation session. Is this the law?" Saddam asked.

Though the video showing the former Iraqi leader has been released in the past, this was the first time he has been seen since the Iraqi Special Tribunal filed its first criminal case against him on Sunday.

Saddam and three other top officials are accused of involvement in the July 1982 massacre of an estimated 150 Shiites in the town of Dujail, in retaliation for a failed assassination attempt on him.

The former president is expected to be charged with at least 13 crimes for which he could face the death penalty.

In addition to the Dujail massacre, the cases include the 1987-88 campaign to drive Iraqi Kurds from wide areas of the north and the brutal repression of the Shiite revolt in the south after US-led forces drove Iraqi invaders from Kuwait in 1991.

It was unclear when the film was taken but Saddam is shown being questioned about the case of Iraqi Shiite Kurds, whose property he confiscated during the early 1980s. He deported many of them to Iran during that time.

In the video, Saddam is seen sitting on a chair, and at one point, wearing glasses and taking notes. A man who appears to be his lawyer sat beside him.

Wearing a dark blue suit and a white shirt, Saddam complained that when he greeted the judges, he got no response. *AP*

Massive urban migration China's biggest AIDS risk

TOURS, France—China's massive wave of urban immigrants represents the greatest danger in the country's struggle to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS, researchers at an international population conference said Friday.

Vinod Mishra of the research company Demographic and Health Surveys said the disease had now broken out of the high-risk groups of injecting drug users and sex workers and was spreading through the general population in China.

"The growing migrant population in China may be the 'tipping point' in China's battle with the AIDS epidemic," researchers Xiushi Yang and Valerian Derlega of the Old Dominion University in the United States and Huasong Luo of Yunnan University said.

The growth of urban migration in China since the early 1980s has been phenomenal with census data showing a rise of 11 million in 1982 to more than 79 million in 2000 and an estimated 120 million currently.

Research by Yang and colleagues found that the risk of HIV infection among temporary urban migrants was much higher than for non-migrants. They were four times more likely to have unprotected sex and twice as likely to have used illicit drugs in their lifetime.

They also found that separation from the social bonds of their village communities was a key factor in the migrants' high-risk behavior.

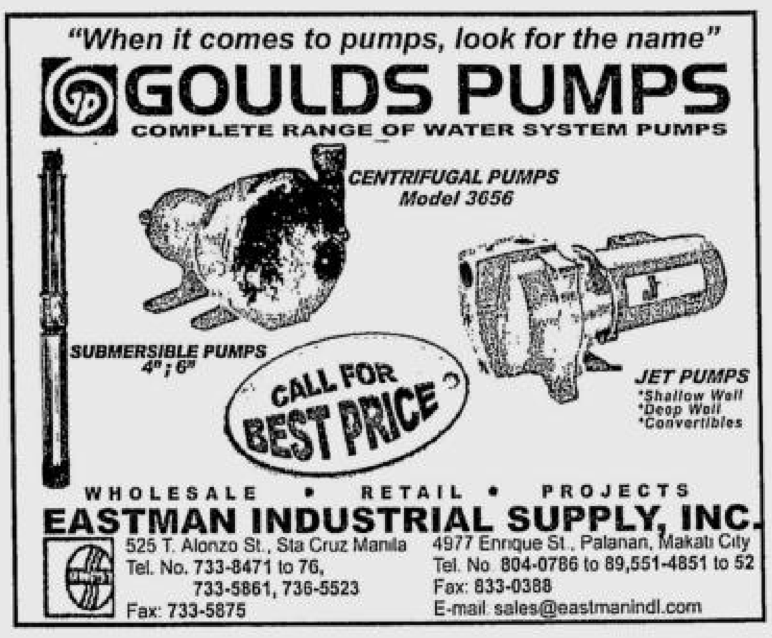
Urban migrants, mostly males in their late teens, live together at their place of work such as construction sites, restaurants and living quarters provided by employers or in camps on the city fringes characterized by poverty, overcrowding and lack of health services.

Mishra said China with 1.3 billion people and India with 1.08 billion were on the frontlines in the battle against AIDS because of their massive populations which meant that even small changes in the percentage rate of infection translated into very large numbers of infected people.

"You have to watch the big giants, they will never have the prevalence rates of sub-Saharan Africa, but in terms of the number of people infected they could be huge epidemics," Mishra said.

India has 5.1 million people infected with HIV representing 0.9 percent of the population, ranking second behind South Africa with 5.3 million in absolute numbers.

The number of HIV infected people in China is at 840,000 or 0.1 percent of the population. *AFP*



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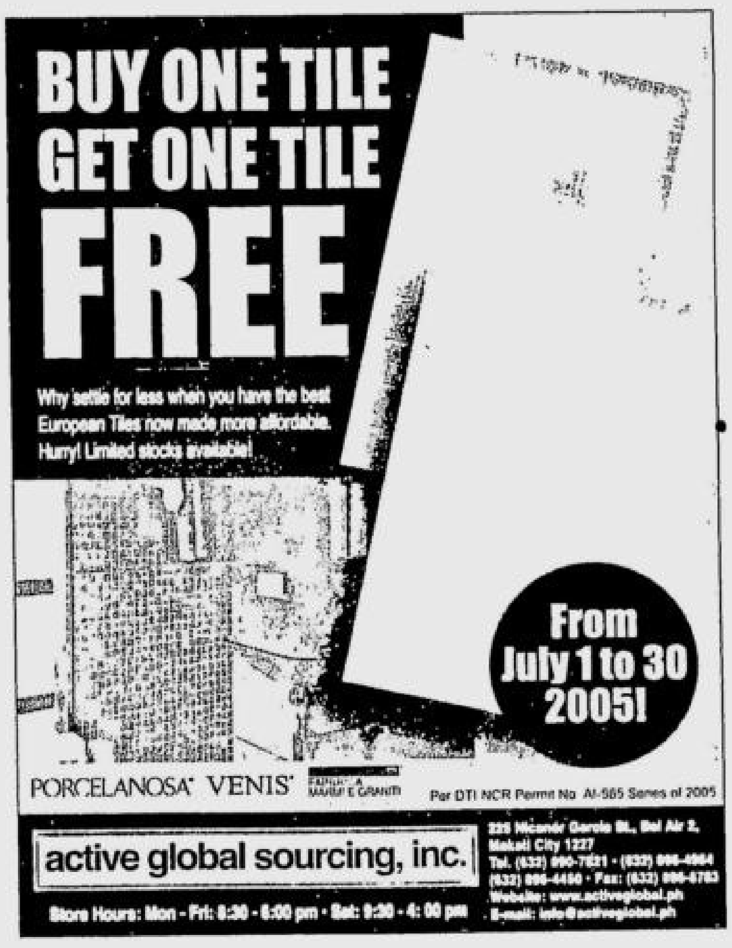

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WHAT TO DO in case of CALAMITIES

In case of TYPHOONS
- Stay indoors and keep calm.
- If your house is in a floodprone area, go to the nearest designated evacuation center.
- Avoid low-lying areas, riverbanks, creeks and coastal areas, slopes, cliffs and foothills. Rains can trigger landslides, rockslides or mudslides.
- Keep telephone lines open for emergencies.

In case of EARTHQUAKES
- If you are in a structurally sound building protect yourself by getting under a sturdy table or desk while shaking occurs; protect your head with your arms.
- Stay calm and don't panic. When the shaking stops, take the fastest, safest way out of a building in a calm and orderly manner. Do not use elevators. Use the stairs.
- Do not enter partially damaged buildings after an earthquake -- strong aftershocks may cause these structures to collapse.

In case of TSUNAMIS
- A strong earthquake is a natural tsunami warning. Do not stay in low-lying and seashore areas after an earthquake. A tsunami might occur within minutes.
- Other natural signs include sudden lowering of the sea level or an unusual rise and fall of the sea level.
- Immediately vacate and seek higher ground. Stay there until all signs of danger have passed.

In case of VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS
- Residents living around an erupting volcano are faced with volcanic hazards that may ensue: these include pyroclastic flows, ashfall and lahars.
- Avoid the declared permanent danger zones in your locality. Also, rivers where hazardous volcanic substances can flow should be avoided.
- If you are along the path of potential lahar flows, move to higher ground or go to a designated evacuation site immediately.

*Partial Listing Only.

AN APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ARROYO, TO THE COMELEC, TO THE MILITARY, TO NAMFREL, TO CIVIL SOCIETY, & TO ALL OTHER SECTORS, BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL, WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLICATIONS TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT, OF THE FORTHCOMING ARMM ELECTIONS IN AUGUST 2005

***Assalamu-Alaikum, Greetings** of Peace, Ang Kapayapaan ay Mapasa-Inyo...*

We are a Core Group led by Young Moro Professionals in the **Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**, and we are joined in by a broad cross-section of advocates for peace and economic development, both from within and outside of ARMM. We remain fully mindful of the very pressing political and economic concerns that are now saddling heavily on Manila. However, please allow us in ARMM, to share with you our own concerns, because we believe that what happens in ARMM, also affects the rest of the country if not other parts of the world, and vice-versa;

We echo the earnest desire of all stakeholders to lasting peace thru sustainable economic development in the Philippine Muslim Region, fully appreciating the reality that, in the words of a very popular government official, ***"when ARMM sneezes, Mindanao catches cold"***. In fact, **as recent events had shown, it is not only Mindanao that is adversely affected, but the whole country as well.** The age-old "war in Mindanao" contributes to a **drain in the government's scarce resources**, and the **loss** of lives, **destruction** of properties, **damage** to economy, even make the losses unquantifiable. The Sipadan and Dos Palmas hostage taking, the Abu Sayyaf and Al-Qaida issues, had shown that the Philippine "Muslim problem" could also become an **INTERNATIONAL concern**, giving a **black mark** to the country;

We are among those who lauded the adoption by the government, through the Office of the Presidential Adviser to the Peace Process, of a well thought-of **Qualification Criteria** for administration candidate (and any candidate for that matter) for governor in the ARMM elections;

We felt greatly assured by the earlier pronouncements from the **Comelec**, by the **military**, as well as calls from many sectors, among them **Namfrel**, from government officials, civil society members, international diplomatic community and other institutions, ensuring and advocating for, an honest, orderly, credible, peaceful ARMM elections less than 3 weeks from now.

We are comforted by the creation of **special election monitoring units** (like Task Forces HOPE and COMET), with assurance of neutral and professional support from the military and police, including the choice of **officers of known integrity**, to head them.

We are comforted by the prevailing sense of general awakening among society, about the need to institute reforms in the country's electoral process, as a basic foundation for good governance, as a first step towards the bringing in of economic development, a key to lasting peace.

We now take this occasion to make the following SPECIFIC petitions to Her Excellency President Arroyo, the Comelec, the Military, Namfrel, and Civil Society:

1. ***For President Arroyo,*** *thank you for being sensitive to the present realities in ARMM.* ***Please include in your SONA next week****, even a brief mention of the forthcoming ARMM elections, hopefully by way of the following announcements:*
   - **"Malacanang is NOT anointing any particular candidate".** This will vouch for your earlier pronouncement of a "free-zone" policy for the administration coalition (for administration candidates Paglas and Ampatuan). This will greatly assure the voters in ARMM, and all concerned sectors particularly, because it has been the history in ARMM elections that it is always the administration candidate who becomes the Regional Governor, perceived more rightly than wrongly to be because of "manipulation of the electoral process" ;
   - **"Remind Provincial Governors and Mayors in the ARMM to only ADVOCATE for Honest, Orderly, Peaceful elections".** They must not allow themselves to be coerced or unduly influenced by any candidate or vested interest groups. They MUST allow, as a matter of fact encourage, the people to vote according to their choice. They MUST in fact, share the responsibility of helping ensure the SANCTITY of the electoral process;
   - **Emphasize that the conduct of forthcoming ARMM elections is being closely watched by all observers, including the international sector.** The image of the government, specifically the Presidency, should not be put in bad light **again** due to actual commission or even perception, of election irregularities. Madame President, NOW is our GOLDEN CHANCE to prove our collective determination to ensure the CREDIBILITY and INTEGRITY of the country's electoral process, **with next month's election as the SHOWCASE for everyone to see**;

2. ***For Comelec Chairman Ben Abalos and AFP Chief Of Staff General Efren Abu****, thank you for your very encouraging exhibition of resolve to ensure a credible, honest, and orderly ARMM election. Your recent sorties around ARMM, and your clear and firm public pronouncements, are a source of comfort to us, electorate and other stakeholders to this coming election. Specifically, we trust that the following shall be strictly implemented:*
   - Ballot boxes, Ballots, and other election paraphernalia must be **delivered to the voting precincts** only on the morning of election day, **strictly watched** by Comelec officers, military personnel and other **non-partisan** volunteers; This shall conclusively address the concern, rightly so because of past experiences, that the ballots and election results have "already been filled up days before the election day".
   - **Immediately upon the end** of voting hours which should be no later than 3 o'clock p.m., the ballot boxes, **properly sealed and already containing** the ballots and other election paraphernalia, should then be transported by the military and accompanied by **non-partisan** volunteers and election officials, to the designated **Central Tabulation Centers**. It maybe appreciated that part of the election safeguards, for purposes of order, credibility, safety, is the policy of canvassing the votes in central, convenient, safer locations in each province;
   - **Gun Ban,** which should include a stern warning to the public in general, particularly the candidates. This should also include strict implementation of the rule against the presence of armed men (or women), even if licensed, inside or around voting premises;

   Some sectors say it might be a logistical problem especially for the military, to actively be involved in adequately securing ALL voting precincts, particularly in transporting the boxes and guarding them. We say this: If the military can "invade" the Muslim Region in times of past wars with the Moro rebel groups, mobilizing elements of death and destruction in those instances, we, the young Moros now dare ask the military, to please do the "invasion" again, **this time for a very constructive purpose, which is to help safeguard a very important and sacred electoral process.** We the electoral constituencies in ARMM, will be more than happy to volunteer whatever we can to support this desired move of the military or Comelec, if only to help ensure the attainment of our desire for honest, orderly, peaceful election, the remaining HOPE for us, greatly disadvantaged people in the Muslim communities.

3. ***For Namfrel's Mr. Joe Concepcion,*** *we convey to you our same message of appreciation to Chairman Abalos and General Abu, for your* ***reassuring support to the ARMM elections.*** *The "Namfrel spirit", exhibited selflessly by our heroic volunteers from all walks of life during the 2001 ARMM elections (we are now missing Fr. Jun Mercado), could again rise to the occasion this time. This time however, our volunteers are better assured of full cooperation and support from key institutions Comelec and the military;*

4. ***For our noble TEACHERS in ARMM,*** It is common knowledge that most of you (we) have been eyewitnesses, in fact helpless tools to election irregularities in the past. We do not wish to waste time regretting about the past. We prefer to move on with OPTIMISM, that a new era for new, respectable politics in the ARMM has finally dawned to a new beginning. Let us redeem ourselves from the negative, embarrassing image based on the past mistakes. Let us again be reliable protectors of this sacred, electoral process, let our children be proud of us.

5. ***For the Media, the international and local observers, civil society and other stakeholders in general****, thank you for the interest to join us through your respective and definitely very important ways, as we embark on this crucial exercise as we elect our SERVANT-LEADERS, those who can deliver to us the expected GOVERNANCE that is anchored on LEADERSHIP and PROVEN TRACK RECORD, who are sworn to SERVE us, the people of ARMM. We take this opportunity to incorporate the Qualifications Criteria that was set by no less than the Office of the President, a very-well thought-of gauge for our future leaders in the Muslim Region.*

Insha-Allah, God Permitting, May our just aspiration for free, credible, honest elections bocome a reality this time.

Allahu-Akhbar, God is Great...

Multi-sectoral groups of stakeholders in ARMM
(armmpeace@yahoo.com), July 18, 2005

ADOPTED CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATE FOR THE ARMM:

The administration candidate for the ARMM should be selected on the basis of his/her proven track record in the following areas:

1. Peace Orientation:
   a. Full understanding of and support for the peace process in pursuit of the negotiated settlement of all armed conflict and genuine reconciliation of all parties/ communities in conflict.
   b. Strict adherence to the rule of law and administration of justice for all.
2. Visible and felt presence on the ground and at the forefront of action during crisis.
3. Management Capability:
   a. Technical Knowledge and understanding of the challenges and tasks of effective autonomous governance,
   b. Knowledge of and capability to run the bureaucracy
   c. Proven ability to deliver results.
4. Political leadership and skills to elicit consensus and cooperation on the levels of:
   a. Regional Cabinet and Regional Legislative Assembly
   b. ARMM LGUs
   c. National Government, both executive and legislative
   d. International Community, especially OIC.
5. Broad acceptability and perceived sense of fairness:
   a. Across the different tribes/ ethno-linguistic groups
   b. Across the tri-peoples; Muslim, Christian, Lumads
   c. Vis-à-vis the MNLF and the MILF
6. Transparency and accountability in handling and management of assistance of National government and foreign donors.
7. Untainted by any major scandal or corruption charge.

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THE PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM

MESSAGE FROM
HRH THE DUKE OF YORK

Strengthening Ties Between the Philippines and the UK

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's President's Bridge Programme for achieving the unparalleled accomplishment of constructing more than a thousand bridges in the Philippines over the last eight years.

Mabey and Johnson Ltd., who have supplied the Compact Bridges and provided support to the programme, represents a long-standing tradition of British engineering. Their bridges symbolise a permanent legacy of the cooperation between our two countries - a legacy that will continue to provide rural infrastructure links necessary for continuous economic and social development throughout the country.

I congratulate all those who have made this huge achievement and I trust that the continued success of the President's Bridge Programme will further strengthen the bilateral co-operation and friendship between the Philippines and Great Britain.

London

Prince Andrew
HRH The Duke of York

MESSAGE FROM
HM AMBASSADOR

Building Links Between Britain and the Philippines

In the short time that I have been in the Philippines, I have had an opportunity to see the importance of bridge building in this beautiful archipelago. I was fortunate to be invited recently to join President Macapagal-Arroyo when she travelled in Iloilo Province. We travelled over a number of bridges and discussed briefly the success of the President's Bridge Programme.

I am delighted that Mabey & Johnson have made such an important contribution to the building of bridges in the Philippines. I have met the company's team both in Britain and the Philippines, and had the opportunity to congratulate them on their work here.

I look forward to seeing the completion of more bridges by Mabey & Johnson during my work in the Philippines. British companies are among the largest investors in the Philippines, and I hope that many more will join Mabey & Johnson and others in helping to develop the country's many resources.

Manila

Peter Beckingham
HM Ambassador

The momentous construction of the 1000th pre-fabricated steel bridge under the President's Bridge Programme (PBP) symbolizes the enhanced and strengthened bilateral development cooperation between Her Majesty's United Kingdom Government and the Republic of the Philippines.

This achievement echoes the successful implementation of a high impact infrastructure programme under a bilaterally approved project framework and highly concessional financing arrangements backed-up by the Export Credit Guarantee Department of Her Majesty's Government under the 1995 United Kingdom Aid and Trade Provisions and the 1996 United Kingdom-Philippine Aid Consultations.

As a parallel intervention, the Programme fast-tracks the provision of critical infrastructure development support aimed to address the country's ballooning bridge requirement of about 15,000 local and national bridges as reflected in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

The Programme links the remotest and poorest communities with the nation's highly urbanized centers creating an opportunity of spreading the fruits of economic progress to the greatest number of populace. Since its inception, it's bridge technology has gained acceptance as the most cost effective mode of installing permanent modular steel bridges quickly, efficiently and with no cost overruns.

Started in 1994 by President Fidel V. Ramos, an engineer and a development oriented President, the Programme continued under President Joseph Estrada and progressed under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stewardship, evidenced by higher performance rating and the completion of 1,000 steel bridges.

The Programme is now under the able chairmanship of the Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., an engineer by training and soldier by discipline.

Due to its modular and quick building nature, the Programme generated bridging materials savings that were used for the San Fernando flyover (installed in 14 days) and Malolos flyover (installed in 60 days). Moreover, as a result of bridging materials savings, emergency bridges were likewise stockpiled in strategic areas of the country as directed by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately respond to natural disasters. This policy directive bore fruit during the 2004 December typhoons where vital bridges destroyed or weakened were immediately rehabilitated and constructed in the provinces of Quezon, Quirino, Nueva Viscaya and Nueva Ecija under the President's Bridge Program.

The Programme has distinguished itself as creator of "wonder bridges" given the completion of bridges from one week to three months. Averaging 5 bridges per month in its first four years of implementation, the Programme doubled its output within the next three years to 10 per month and tripled to 30 per month by 2004. This is a global record breaking achievement in bridge building history.

Consistent with the UK-Philippines bilateral protocol arrangements for development cooperation, Mabey and Johnson, Ltd. is the certified British sole supplier of steel bridging materials for the President's Bridge Programme. It is the only British company which manufactures pre-fabricated panel style steel bridges. It uses the latest state of the art bridge technology and fully robotized production in the manufacturing of its patented steel bridges. The company is 150 years old and a recipient of six Queen's Award for Export Achievement in recognition of its continuing success in the provition of bridging materials to over 115 countries worldwide.

"Reaching the Millennium", a book especially produced in the United Kingdom to mark the completion of 1,000 bridges under the President's Programme was recently presented to His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, the Duke of York by Mr. David Mabey, Chairman of the Mabey Group of Companies of the United Kingdom. The book was officially transmitted by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines, Peter Beckingham, to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM

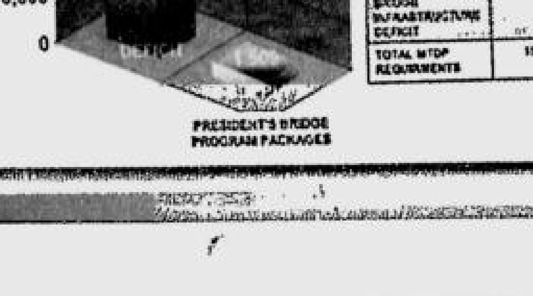
TULAY NG PANGULO

THE QUEEN'S AWARD

MABEY

PRIORITY BRIDGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Under the 1997
Medium Term Development Plan
(MTDP)



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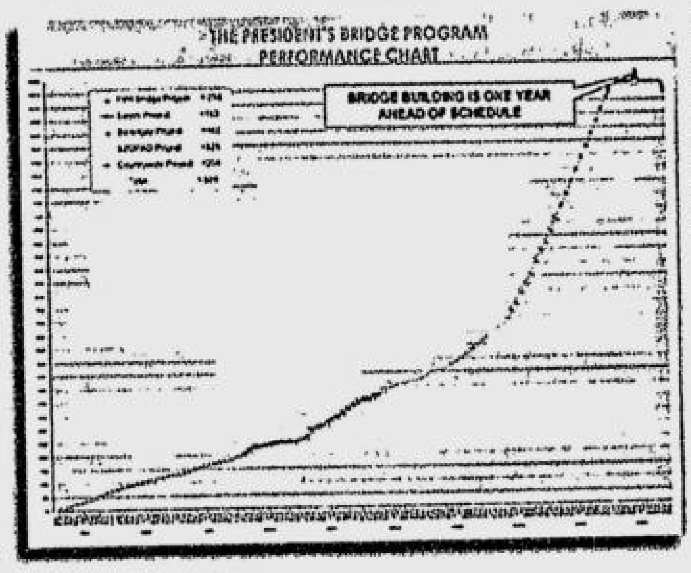
PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM COVERAGE	[illegible]	[illegible]
PHILIPPINES BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL MTDP REQUIREMENTS	15,091	100.00%



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OPINION

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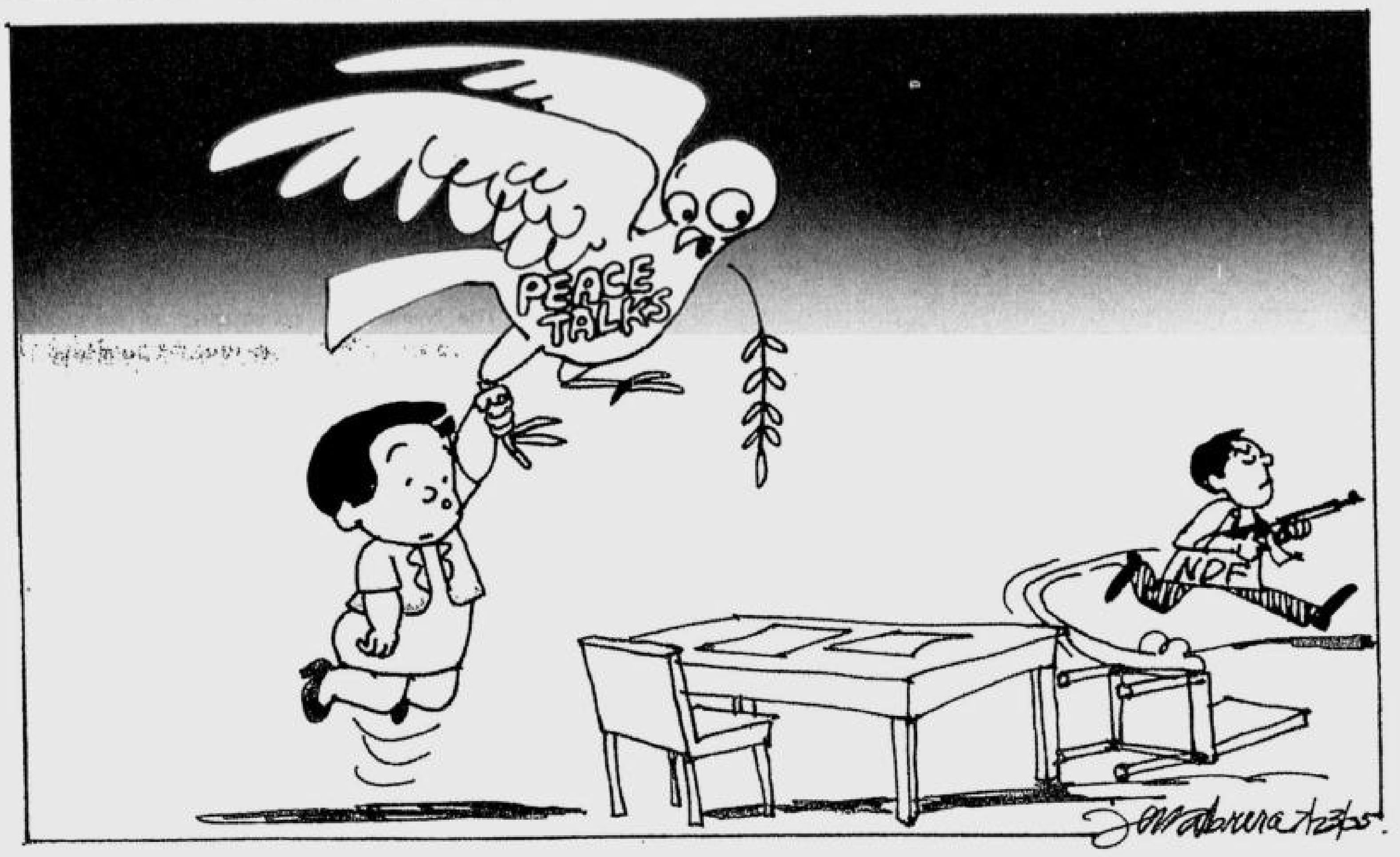


Plan B

EDITORIAL

EVEN as the entire nation debates the merits and demerits of removing President Macapagal-Arroyo through impeachment and establishing a truth commission, one activity needs to go forward. That is the hearing of former Sen. Loren Legarda's election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro, which is being done by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

This process needs not only to continue moving forward, but indeed to accelerate. The problems being faced by the President generally concerns her. In other words, the focus of a fact-finding body will be the President (and others, of course, if the President has her way, but still mainly her), while the Senate acting as an impeachment court will determine her fitness to continue holding office. Considering the scenarios being peddled by various quarters, much will depend on whether the people can continue to think that the constitutional process will endure should a succession become necessary.

The country therefore needs to know, beyond a shadow of doubt, who the rightful successor of the President is. Right now, by virtue of his occupying the position he holds, it is Vice President De Castro. The problem is, Legarda believes she is the rightful vice president. If the argument is made that pressuring the President to step down would only make her successor vulnerable to the same pressures, that becomes even more likely if there remains any doubt about the legitimacy of that successor.

It has been more than a year since the President and Vice President were inaugurated, and still, doubts remain (in certain quarters, at least) as to the legitimacy of their incumbencies. The case of the President can no longer prosper at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, not only because her leading rival died, but because the Supreme Court said those petitioning to continue the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s appeal lack the legal personality to do so. This means, then, that the place to settle the question of her victory (legitimately or illegitimately gained) will be an impeachment court. But even if that issue is settled, it will still leave the question of the Vice President's legitimacy.

It is quite a scandalous indictment of our constitutional institutions and processes that a matter of such grave importance has been allowed to fester for so long. Even in normal times, justice requires that an electoral protest be resolved expeditiously so that the real winner will get to occupy the post to which he has been elected and the people get to be served by the official that they have picked. And these can hardly be called normal times.

De Castro and Legarda need to demonstrate that they are interested in making the process work, and that they will not spare any effort, or even expense, to expedite the resolution of the case. The Supreme Court could help ease political tensions and the erosion of the credibility of constitutional processes by encouraging both sides to drop their dilatory tactics, and instead, concentrate on reaching an unbiased and rational settlement of the case. We believe both parties are capable of demonstrating such statesmanship at this time, as both are viewed, rightly or wrongly, as possible presidents should things go unfavorably for the President.

The country deserves to know that in case it has to resort to the constitutional Plan B, a swift, credible, handover of power will take place. Never mind even the question of having a fact-finding body or impeachment. We have had three presidents who died in office. Every president is human, and the only purpose of electing a vice president is to ensure the succession in case anything happens to the chief executive. Were the President, who is otherwise remarkably healthy, suddenly to fall ill or worse, what then? These are grim political realities we cannot afford to simply ignore at the present, or at any other, time.

At a time when politicians on either side of the political divide are showing more selfishness than genuine concern for the future of the country, would it be too much to ask the two, professional communicators both, to communicate something other than naked ambition?

A handiwork of greed

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

HERE we go again. The politicians are again tinkering with the Constitution, which is supposed to be "firm and immovable, like a mountain amidst the strife of storms or a rock in the ocean amidst the raging of the waves." They are arguing in Justice Benjamin Cardozo's words that "the inn that shelters for the night is not the journey's end. The Constitution, like the traveler, must be ready for the morrow."

The jurist's eloquence is being bandied around to dignify the politicians' shabby motives. They are intending to change the charter not to make it ready for the morrow but to bring us back to yesterday.

The Commonwealth Constitution was adopted in 1935 but was changed after only five years upon the suggestion (or command) of Manuel L. Quezon. He was elected to one six-year term but wanted to continue longer as President of the Philippines. He declared that six years were too long for a bad President but too short for a good one.

The people followed their magnetic leader. The presidential term was changed from six years without re-election to two maximum four-year terms, provided that Quezon, upon his certain re-election, would serve only for two more years to conform to the eight-year limit.

To make the change more palatable, the unicameral National Assembly, which proposed the amendments, replaced itself with a bicameral Congress of the Philippines and constitutionalized the statutory Commission on Elections. All the proposals were overwhelmingly ratified.

In the '60s, Congress sought to again amend the Constitution but with its members to sit as ex officio delegates of the constitutional convention to be called with elective delegates. The rank effrontery was junked by the outraged electorate.

In 1971, a constitutional convention was elected to consider changes in the 1935 Constitution that was deemed no longer responsive to the times. Its efforts were blemished, however, by the exposé of Delegate Eduardo Quintero that many members had received bribes to extend President Marcos' incumbency as prime minister of a parliamentary government.

His plan foiled, Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and ordered a new constitution to suit his purposes. This was submitted to what were called citizens' assemblies that supposedly approved it with a show of hands. It was subsequently upheld by a toadying Supreme Court as the Constitution of 1972.

Edsa I revoked that wicked document with a Freedom Constitution that was later substituted by the present Constitution. Prepared by the Constitutional Commission composed of appointive members, it was ratified with a big majority and became effective on Feb. 2, 1987.

During the term of President Fidel Ramos, the Pirma, generally suspected to have been created under his direction, attempted to propose a parliamentary government in lieu of the presidential system. The initiative, although claimed to be supported with a million signatures, was rejected by the Supreme Court for lack of the needed implementing law.

Now the move to amend the charter has been revived, partly to distract the nation's attention from the serious charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family now under legislative investigation. The other purpose is to lengthen her incumbency and retain her allies in power (provided she survives her threatened impeachment).

The plan is to convert the present government into a parliamentary set-up, with Ms Arroyo as ceremonial or actual president and either former President Ramos or Speaker Jose de Venecia as prime minister. The proposal shall be made by Congress itself acting as a constituent assembly, arguably for less expense and more effective control of the members.

If these suspicions are true, then the whole plan must be rejected outright. The people will again be enlisted—or worse, deceived—to change the fundamental law for political and personal ambitions over and above the public welfare. The Constitution should not be degraded to gratify that evil plot.

Whatever form of government we adopt, it will remain stagnant and corrupt as long as we retain the same politicians who have reduced us to our present deplorable state. Shifting from the presidential to the parliamentary will not solve our problems if we do not choose new leaders to forge a better future for our country. It is the leadership we should revise, not the Constitution.

If we want an honest-to-goodness change of the Constitution, let it be proposed by a new set of delegates freely elected by the citizenry on the strength of their qualifications and not their political notoriety. Unless the constitutional convention is thus sanitized, its work will be a worthless handiwork of greed.

Media and the lynch-mob mentality

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I THINK I may have been one of the fiercest critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo over the years, with my criticisms particularly focused on, but not limited to, her economic policy. I also admit that I may have imposed higher standards on her because she is an economist. But in any event, I would like to think that these criticisms were based on solid grounds rather than on conjectures and speculations. And they were definitely not partisan or ideological in motivation. The objective was always to look out for national rather than personal interests.

Which is why I want no part of what has to be called the lynch-mob mentality that has seemed to grip the nation, fed by, I am sorry to say, media which more often than I am comfortable with, cannot seem to distinguish between generating news and reporting it. When that happens, a vicious cycle occurs: We generate our own excitement, then we panic because of it, and people get caught up in the hysteria, which then results in generating more excitement....

Take for example the June 27 nationwide broadcast where the President apologized for her lapse in judgment. Who was immediately asked to react? Certainly not the man on the street. Tremendous emphasis was given to the opposition's reactions, starting with the jailed Erap Estrada, which were predictably unfavorable; and much less emphasis (and I think column-inches or air-time analysis will bear this out) on the reaction of administration stalwarts, which were predictably favorable. Even more unfortunate, the "I am sorry" part of the President's statement was focused on, practically ignoring the rest.

Let's just follow one thread in that reaction pattern: Susan Roces on the basis of the President's statement and her (GMA's) eyes, accused her of stealing the presidency—not once, but twice—and of insincerity. No one bothered to ask what in the GMA statement, or for that matter the tapes, could possibly have been the basis of that accusation. But it has caught hold of the public's imagination. Anecdotal evidence of this phenomenon: My upholsterer in Subic asked me what should happen now that GMA had admitted that she cheated in order to win. Is it any wonder that a very large majority of the population want her to resign or be impeached?

And yet one recalls, the President made no such admission. But the opposition fanned the flames, repeating the accusation that she stole the elections with practically every breath they took. This was duly recorded by the media. And while I may be casting too much blame on a sector to which I belong, there was at most only feeble attempts to bring balance to the reporting.

Couldn't there have been at least an attempt to determine whether those conversations could have indeed resulted in stealing an election? Because if the attempt had been made, some timing inconsistencies would be revealed. The conversations took place from May 27, after all the Certificates of Canvass (COCs) were already in Congress. With all the security attendant to those COCs, not even a Houdini (much less a Garcillano) would have been able to alter them to suit his evil purposes. The "*dagdagan, dagdagan*" theory falls apart.

Couldn't there have been a brief review to remind ourselves of what transpired in the run-up to and the aftermath of the elections? Because if there had been one, the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia releases at the time would show that GMA had overtaken FPJ in the polls and as of the week before the elections, the difference between them was statistically significant nationwide. While NCR and Luzon and Mindanao could go either way, the lead in the Visayas was so commanding (57 percent GMA, 20 percent FPJ) as to ensure her victory. Which is what happened.

Also, Namfrel's Bill Luz was quoted as saying: "We didn't see enough electoral anomalies at the national level to have a material effect on the national results"—i.e., of course there was cheating (there always is, and this must be punished), but nobody stole an election.

And a year later, the CBCP, through Archbishop Fernando Capalla, said: "It is the view of the bishops that the results of the elections reflected the will of the Filipino people." Unfortunately, not much attention was given by the media to this statement.

And finally, amid all the furor over the latest survey results, surely it would not have been too much to report that in one survey (June 28-30), while 18 percent wanted resignation and 20 percent wanted status quo, 26 percent of those surveyed wanted more information. This was totally ignored.

Also ignored is that in the latest SWS survey, 62 percent were in favor of a truth commission—which means that whether they wanted resignation or impeachment, they also wanted the facts. (Perhaps their cool heads struggling to overcome their warm hearts? There may be hope yet.)

Am I saying that media are in some way to blame for this lynch-mob mentality? Another bit of anecdotal evidence here: When asked what they thought would be the outcome of their demonstrations against GMA, a spokesman said, "It depends—on the media and the military." Not necessarily in that order, would be my guess.

But we must also blame ourselves. Surely it cannot have escaped our notice that most of those making the noise are also-runs and people with self-serving agendas. We should all refuse to be railroaded by these people who don't want facts to get in the way of their conclusions and their ambitions.

Let's have faith in democratic process

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday delivered his own "True State of the Nation Address" with the help of the same advertising agency that packaged his other presentations in the past. It was an impressive production and he did look and sound "presidential." But Lacson's call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down as she has lost her moral ascendancy sounds hollow, coming from him. He should be the last person to talk about moral issues, as he himself has been unable to answer various serious charges hurled against him, notably by Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

* * *

Rosebud and what she claimed were the "victims" of Lacson held a "Be Very Afraid" press conference next door to where he was making his presentation at the Manila Hotel. Pretty and extremely articulate and intelligent, Rosebud said her group's aim was to "refresh" the public memory on the alleged "sins" of her old protagonist. Among those who joined her were relatives of Bubby Dacer and Edgar Bentain, who had disappeared during the Estrada era. Rosebud recalled how Lacson successfully blocked the Senate's adoption of the voluminous report of three joint committees that conducted prolonged hearings on his group's alleged involvement in drug trafficking. The report recommended the filing of criminal charges against his group and until now his key people, Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, are fugitives from justice. Rosebud also cited the unresolved Kuratong Baleleng murder case where Lacson's group was implicated as well as the murder allegations made against him by a former sergeant in his deathbed.

Lacson is obviously buoyed by his higher acceptance ratings in recent surveys, and is playing for the big game. But Rosebud is right: if he is to gain the people's trust about "moral ascendancy," he has to answer those charges made by Rosebud and other people, and not hide behind slick advertising-oriented presentations.

* * *

A furious campaign is going on in the House of Representatives to get members to sign resolutions for or against the removal of GMA from office. The anti-GMA group hopes to get the 79 signatures needed to send the impeachment complaint directly to the Senate for trial, without being processed in the House committee on justice. Dominating this group are the opposition, militant leftist elements and the Liberal Party faction of Senate President Franklin Drilon. GMA supporters, on the other hand, aim to thwart this move by conducting their own signature campaign. This pull and counter-pull in the House is democracy in action, and one can expect the protagonists to use every trick in the trade to gain the upper hand. The important thing, however, is that whichever side loses should accept defeat gracefully. Unfortunately, the opposition and leftist groups have threatened to take to the streets again if their complaint fails to hurdle the House. Such threats have no place in the constitutional process of impeachment and the people will see them not only as poor losers but threats to stability.

* * *

Now is a crucial time for discernment for each member of the House. The opposition says it already has 50 votes and needs only 29 more. On the other hand, the pro-GMA group claims to have about 90 signatures so far and expect more (a two-thirds plus one vote would kill the complaint outright in the House). But I suspect that what could deter the opposition from getting the needed 79 votes may be the realization among thinking members that in the event GMA is removed from her post, the ensuing scenario could be more chaotic and fearful. Yesterday's newspapers featured the group that has signified its intention to set up a caretaker council to take over the reins of government after GMA. It's dominated by Erap leaders, with a sprinkling of frustrated leaders of Eddie Villanueva's group. Then there's the militant Left, now stepping up its hard-line position that calls for the establishment of a revolutionary junta. The political opposition, on the other hand, is pushing for Susan Roces or Lacson.

* * *

One thing is clear: All the formulas being advanced by various groups against GMA reject Vice President Noli de Castro or Senate President Drilon, who are both in the line of succession. It's a *kanya-kanya* formula for chaos and mob rule could ensue. Many thinking Filipinos are frankly worried about the possible chaos and they are being pushed to GMA's side because of this prospect. Many now actually want GMA to continue in office. The House members should consider this predicament when the time comes for their impeachment vote.

* * *

This political crisis has seriously divided the Liberal Party, with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Senate President Drilon leading the two respective factions. This division would doubtless reflect in the LP votes in the House plenary. But this division is also reflected in many families across the nation. Note that the family of Ninoy Aquino is divided between Cory and Butz Aquino on the anti-GMA side, and Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara, GMA's image-maker, on the other. Where does Paul Aquino, president of PNOC-EDC, stand? The Vera Perez family is also divided, with Marichu Maceda and sister Chona with Susan Roces, while Gina de Venecia, sister Bechay Nakpil and their mom Azucena "Nene" Vera Perez firmly with GMA. In Sunday lunches at the sprawling family compound in Quezon City, there's a perceptible 38th parallel dividing the two groups, with the matriarch shuttling between them even as she attends Mass daily, at times even three times, to pray for GMA's survival. Mely Nicolas joined the Hyatt 10 that clamored for GMA's resignation last July 8, but US-based sister Loida Nicolas Lewis has publicly endorsed GMA's programs. Loida came across very strong on TV.

Obstinacy pays

YOUNG BLOOD

Mimi Davis Lacambra

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY mom believes I'm crazy. No kidding. She says I keep her blood pressure up and frets about dying early because of me, and she sounds as if she looks forward to that event. I adore my mom, but she is such a spoilsport.

At 14, I learned that I had a spinal deformity, structural scoliosis. My parents made me go through remedial exercises—therapies, braces and a lot of TLCs that I thought I would break anytime. On second thought, perhaps they believed I was—or I am—a princess. A scoliotic princess, that is.

The old doctor was no fun either. He had a mixture of the voices of the Bogeyman and Freddie Kruger, and it killed me to simply sit there in his clinic. It was an ordeal listening to him when it was clear he was getting a kick scaring the hell out of me. Not that he really got me scared—pissed off was more like it.

His talk about operations made me sick. I was an active adolescent so he always reminded to refrain from any activity that required a lot of effort. What a joke! The old fellow wanted me to play dead.

Fed up with his depressing attitude, I just told myself one day that if tomorrow I would be dead, I wanted to die after having lived my life to the fullest. And I resolved never to talk to any doctor from then on.

That was when my mother started believing I'm crazy.

I pursued my passions. I went into sports. I played lawn and table tennis like a pro. I play soldier whenever I get the chance. Search and rescue operations, well, sometimes search and destroy.

And I climb mountains. For one scoliotic beauty, guess where mountain-climbing has sent me? No less than the Kidapawan Trail in Mindanao. Seriously. I, myself, couldn't believe it then. Me, climb the highest peak in the country? Who would think I could make it? Just imagine six days on that mountain. If the trek up didn't kill me, hypothermia would finish the job.

I took a Friday flight to Davao that summer. The old doctor was convinced I had crossed the boundary, and this was going to be my final act. A suicide.

For me, it was a question of dignity. A matter of pride. I went into it as if my life depended on it. I strongly believed no person has the right to curtail human potential. I defied the rules, hoping against hope that the feat would leave me no doubt I could do anything. I was out to prove the old doctor wrong, again. Assuming, of course, that I would survive.

The first half of the trek was pleasurable. We were going at a leisurely pace, exploring the forest and examining all fauna and flora for an on-the-trail photography.

Tuesday was the highlight of our trek. We had to make a steep 90-degree ascent, while hearing the maddening sound of a cascading waterfall. Halfway though the climb, I thought of my mom and acknowledged that she was damn right about me.

When we reached the summit, a magnificent picture unfolded before my eyes. North. South. East. West. Boy, it was worth all the effort. I swear I could almost hear the angels singing.

That was five years ago. The old doctor has given up on me. He said I didn't need him, anyway. He probably thought I needed a psychiatrist, maybe two, but he kept that to himself.

Last time I saw him, he asked, feigning nonchalance, what I was up to nowadays. I smiled mischievously.

A younger doctor attends to me now. They say he's an ortho expert. Okay, okay. So he is. He better be. I think he's aware that I have an abiding love for doctors. I'm not sure if he's simply pulling my leg, but he seems to approve of all of my activities. He talks about compensatory factors, whatever that means. He even suggested once, with a big smile, that I go skydiving or bunjee-jumping some time. I could have half a dozen of kids, too, if I liked, he said. But I better start soon.

By the way, my mom is still alive. Some things never change.

Mimi Davis Lacambra, 29, works as a publicist.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

A map for the 'middle forces'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"C4T" is a gathering of civil-society organizations that began life weeks before the "dramatic" events of July 8. The groups had gathered to discuss civil-society options in the wake of the twin controversies over alleged links of government officials, including members of the President's family, to the illegal *jueteng* racket, as well as the tapes of tapped telephone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and a Comelec official, widely believed to be Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

At the time of its founding, the group was known as "Citizens for Truth," but given the swift and dramatic momentum generated by recent events, especially after a meeting held last week to consolidate civil society's stance, "C4T" has now come to mean "Citizens for TRIO," the last an acronym for a number of options for regime change, to wit: Truth Commission, Resign, Impeach and Oust, this last option preferably through "non-violent and democratic" means.

"TRIO" is not meant to describe a sequence of events, or to give the impression that these four modes of breaking the current impasse are mutually exclusive. Nor are all four means to be undertaken alone by the groups assembled at the meeting. At the moment, for instance, the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference is taking the lead in organizing the Truth Commission, while the impeachment of the President is proceeding apace, with the political opposition leading the charge in the House. The option for "resign," on the other hand, lies entirely in the President's hands, although civil-society groups could a play a role in facilitating this outcome through protest actions and other ways of influencing public opinion. In this so-called "middle" or "centrist" forces will have to do some catching up, as supporters of former President Estrada as well as the Left have already shown the way.

* * *

INTERESTINGLY enough, the option of Charter change, which politicians, especially House Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos, are pushing, was not adopted by the gathering.

Personally, I think the proposal to address the current crisis by modifying the Constitution is a non-starter. For one, it won't help the nation find out the answers to the questions on most everybody's minds: Did the President tell the entire truth when she "confessed" about her "lapse of judgment"? Did she indeed cheat during the 2004 elections? And if she cheated, does it mean she was not the rightful winner in the polls?

Changing our form of government now will not guarantee any improvement in governance. And changing our system of leadership from presidential to parliamentarian will be meaningless while the underpinnings of government remain rotten and corrupt. It will be like preparing to move into a decrepit house that's about to fall apart by re-painting the exterior and doing minor repairs, without shoring up the foundations.

The time for constitutional reform is not now, while a political crisis is brewing. Rather, we should wait for the crisis to be resolved, through any of the "TRIO" alternatives, and then perhaps wait for the situation to stabilize and for a new leadership to gain a firm footing before tinkering with the basic law of the land.

* * *

SEEKING to provide a guidepost to the civil-society folks gathered at the "C4T" meeting, a respected NGO leader, who remains anonymous only because I didn't have time to clear this with him, read a paper he called "Quo Vadis Middle Forces?" This is how he described the situation we face today:

"I have been attending meetings asking the question: Where are we in this crisis? I have two kinds of answers. In terms of the narrowly defined crisis concerning the fate of PGMA, we are in the stage where we think we still have political, or even moral, choices to make that can drive events and outcomes... In another two to three months, this window of apparent luxury in political or moral choices will narrow and real events—economic distress, mass actions, military movements—will dictate severely constricted and circumscribed options.

"There is also another answer from a larger perspective. If we look at the data concerning public opinion and popular will, however, we are in fact already in a stage of what I call a 'governance vacuum,' where people want their political system to provide leadership for change, but for a combination of reasons this leadership is not forthcoming. This is a stage of grave danger to our nation because once the imperatives of survival grows and become more insistent, it will not be the forces with the best and most correct solution that could determine the outcome but rather those who are most prepared and ready to offer a viable solution.

"In our country's history, those most ready with a viable solution to political crisis have often been the vested interests because their goals are clear and their methods decisive. Reform forces with diffused goals and indecisive methods are the first casualties of intensified crisis and their usual palliative resolutions."

* * *

"IN MY view, what the people want is a viable, sustainable and credible political solution to the present crisis that also allows us to build on this solution for future stability, growth and strength. They want a solution that can move us out of this current PGMA crisis but establishes a governing capability with some traction to deliver better results down the long haul. This is the current demand under conditions of apparent luxury of choices: a short-term solution with long-term viability. Once conditions worsen to make the imperative of choice more pressing and urgent, our people could settle for any short-term solution that gains ground whatever might be its long-term prospects."

Holy Week

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

DUE to the magnificence of its churches and the solemnity and pomp with which it celebrated its rites the pious city beside the Pasig was called the "Rome of the Orient," where the orders, communities and religious brotherhoods existed in what appeared to be the Medieval Age.

Worthy as well of this small Rome was Holy Week in which the passion and death of the Redeemer were remembered with silence, acts of devotion and solemn ceremonies. For this reason, Holy Week in Manila was well known and attracted the pious inhabitants of neighboring towns and nearby provinces, nearly doubling the number of city dwellers for its duration. The construction of the railroad to Bulacan and Pampanga facilitated travel and contributed to the popularity of this pilgrimage.

Palms decorated with ribbons and flowers invaded the churches on Palm Sunday. With the Hosanna, the bearers shook them like the tops of trees in a forest during a storm. The processions were a festival of lights, with miles of candles, bejeweled images and statues of saints rendered by famous sculptors well known for their art.

In the center of the procession were the *pasos de Cristo*, pulled in carts or borne aloft by hundreds of devotees of the Nazarene of both sexes. They came clad in the traditional dress of long and fitted tunic with lace collar, face and head covered, a crown of artificial flowers, an embroidered band and even with precious gems for the devout rich, black or white gloves and almost all barefoot because of the promise they made to impose this penance on themselves.

The rites were both severe and sumptuous. In the basilica, the archbishop, dressed in pontifical robes, gave the sacred host to the governor general, *corregidor de la ciudad* and the *ayuntamiento*, just as in the parishes of the suburbs the *principales* received communion.

The *monumentos de perspectiva* that were painted in Intramuros by Divela and Alberoni, featuring crypts and pantheons, were imitated in the churches of the suburbs and adorned by lights and flowers that solemnized the celebration of the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Maundy Thursday.

The sermons and lectures were delivered by the most famous preachers and listened to in silent introspection without the wailing of the women that were still heard in the sermon of Good Friday in some churches until the last quarter of the 19th century. It was still part of the rites in remote barrios. "Stabat Mater" was recited in chapels and the songs of the Passion sung by specially selected voices and orchestras.

The custom of gathering in houses to sing the Passion loudly was becoming less pronounced in the city as the century drew to a close, but it was recited in private chapels with devotion and composure although it still probably still bothered the neighbors.

Jesuit Fr. Murillo Velarde recounts that in the 18th century confessions would last from the beginning of Lent to the Feast of Corpus Christi. The doors of the church would open at dawn and confessions were heard until 11 o'clock and again from 2 in the afternoon till nightfall. Priests would sit in the confessional for seven or eight hours daily.

On the Sundays of Lent, "Doctrina Cristiana" was chanted through the streets of the city and the boys of San Ignacio would walk in the procession to the royal chapel in the fort where the catechism was explained and a sermon preached to the soldiers. Doctrine was also explained at Puerta Real and Puerta del Parian, and people passing in or out would stop and listen to the preaching at the guard house. Another priest would visit the royal foundry where the galley slaves lived and teach the Word to *mestizos*, Indians of various dialects, Cafres, Negroes of different kinds, and Sangleys and Chinese.

During Holy Week, the people erected little altars in their house with holy pictures and images. In their arms they drew crosses and wore a rosary around their neck. Flagellations would take place during the processions and other forms of severe punishment were practiced. Thrice a week during Lent, the "Miserere" or flagellation was performed by penitents in the church of San Ignacio.

Holy Week ended with the ringing of bells, the bursting of firecrackers and petards, horse racing and carriages events in the Sabado de Gloria. The city returned to its normal routine. On Easter Sunday, from the suburbs emerged at dawn the processions of the "Salubung," the encounter of the Risen Christ with his Blessed Mother. The Virgin was presented without her black cape of the Dolorosa and both images would bow three times to each other. The *andas* (blessed palms) were waved simulating the bowing. Processions coming from different streets would meet at the area where the Salubung was to be enacted, where a grand cone made of colored paper was hung and later opened to reveal a star where a carved wooden mechanical angel or sometimes a young girl would descend to scatter flowers.

The rites were attended by the elegant *principales* of the towns and suburbs; it was an opportunity to show off their best gowns, their most expensive jewelry and it was here that the fashion or style for the year would be presented.

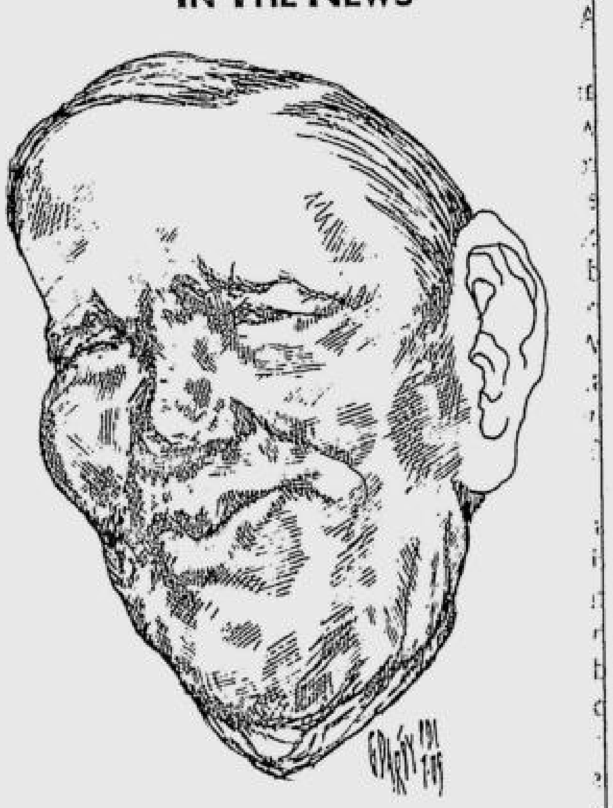
Holy Week did not decline but became more elaborate with the passage of time during the Spanish era although certain customs like the *penitentes* disappeared from the city, the fiestas in the houses of the Hermanos Mayores, and the penetrating voices of singers of the Passion.

(Data from "La Ilustracion Filipina," April 1892 and Blair & Robertson.)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

IN THE NEWS



Raul Gonzalez

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Most sensible, less expensive way to find the truth in 2004

THE PROPOSED, strictly non-partisan commission discussed in the editorial "Search for truth" (PDI, 7/12/05) is difficult to organize. There is a simpler way to find the truth.

Sections 15, 203, 229, 231 of the Omnibus Election Code require that the "signature and the clear imprint of the thumbmark of the right hand of all the members, [should] likewise ... be affixed, in full view of the public," [to] the "election returns" and the "certificate of canvass," including the "sealed envelope" where these documents are to be duly placed inside.

The certificate of canvass for the election of president and vice president is prepared in "quintuplicate." The first copy goes to the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the second, to the Comelec; the third, to the provincial election supervisor; "the fourth and fifth copies to each of the two accredited political parties."

So, the administration and the opposition have their own copy of the certificate of canvass, which is prepared by the various provincial board of canvassers nationwide and is "duly authenticated by the signatures and thumbmarks affixed [to] these certificates by all the members of these Boards."

Signatures, however, can easily be forged, but "no two humans, not even identical twins, have ever been found to have identical fingerprints"; thus, the thumbmarks of the members of the various boards of canvassers may be regarded as irrefutable proof in the search for truth regarding the alleged rigging of the 2004 elections.

So, Congress should immediately convene and summon the members of the canvassing boards in places where the election results are now being contested as fraudulent, and direct these officers to appear and testify under oath.

No amount of biased, self-serving testimony by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Samuel Ong, Vidal Doble, Alan Paguia, Francisco Tatad and others can compare with the personal authentication and verification of the signatures and thumbmarks beside the votes recorded in the certificates by the members of the boards.

A congressional hearing costs over P4 million per sitting. Gathering all members of the various boards in the search for truth will not cost more than a day's hearing (congressional).

Authentication of the votes recorded in the certificates by the persons whose right thumbmarks are supposed to have been affixed to the documents is, perhaps, the most sensible way to find what we want to in the search for truth.

—DOMINGO T. ARONG and
FERMIN T. ROTEA,
domingoarong@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

Possibly illegitimate

IN A NEWSPAPER report on July 18, I was cited by certain congressmen as saying that a mere call to a Comelec commissioner is not unlawful.

While, indeed, I expressed this sort of opinion in several TV interviews and forums, I also explained that I was only referring to such calls made during elections by candidates, parties and concerned citizens to help address those thousands of operational matters that need attention, since the Comelec is not only a quasi-judicial body but also manages the election process.

However, having said that, I also pointed out that calls made for other than a legitimate purpose, as determined by an impartial investigation of the content of the conversation, may be another matter.

—CHRISTIAN S. MONSOD

Macabebe and Sasmuan

THIS is in reaction to Manuel L. Quezon III's column, "You can't afford to miss it." (PDI, 6/27/05) There was mention of the extensive Mexican-Philippine contact during the Galleon Trade (1565-1815). This led to, among others, the infusion of many Mexican Nahuatl words into the Filipino language, according to his source named Wikepedia. The information is historically interesting and accurate, except that on Macabebe and Sasmuan towns in Pampanga. This serious historical blunder must be rectified immediately.

According to the eminent Kapampangan historian, the late Don Mariano A. Henson, the town of Macabebe was already a prosperous settlement even before the Spanish conquest of the Philippines. It was established during the time of Prince Balagtas and his royal household, who migrated from Sumatra in the early 1300s. "Macabebe" evolved from the original Kapampangan word "*macabibi*," meaning, a site abundant with "*cabi-bi*" clams which flocked by the millions along the town's riverbanks or "*bebe ilug*."

The migrants from Sumatra built their houses along the riverbanks and they relished in describing their homes as "*Maca bebe la keng ilug* (They are located along the riverbanks)." The very first village of the town, founded by Prince Balagtas' daughter-in-law, Lady Mandic—the wife of Gat Araw Malangsic, the prince's eldest son—was named "Bebay." Kapampangan colloquial phonetics transformed it into "Bebe." In 1878, the Spaniards ceded Barrio Bebe to the new town of Masantol. It still exists to this day.

The town of Sasmuan was no-man's-land in the 1500s. It was a thickly forested "island" among many uninhabited "islands" that were isolated by a maze of waterways that poured out into Manila Bay. The ancient Kapampangan word "*Sasmuan*" meant "a secret gathering place." The now obsolete Kapampangan word, "*Sasmu*" meant "to secretly flock together and mount an armed attack against a perceived enemy or enemies."

During the great Chinese insurrection of the early 1600s, several hundred Chinese insurgents fled the Spanish massacres in Manila and sought refuge in Guagua, Pampanga. Soon they became emboldened enough to mount attacks into inner Pampanga. Kapampangan warriors reacted swiftly and banded themselves together. They then flocked secretly (Sasmu) to an "island" to the south from where they staged several surprise attacks on the Chinese rebels' southern flanks, cutting off and summarily annihilating many of them. The successful defense by the Kapampangans finally tamed the restive Chinese who later tried a new approach—inter-marriage and peaceful assimilation. It turned out to be a success!

The strategic "island" was henceforth settled by some warriors. By mid-1600s, it had evolved into a new town. For sentimental reasons, the settlers retained the historical significance of the place, i.e., "a secret gathering place" or "Sasmuan."

—DANIEL H. DIZON,
War History Club of Angeles,
Villa Gloria, Angeles City

46% of murdered journalists killed during GMA's rule

THE UNDERSIGNED faculty members of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication (UP CMC) strongly condemn the killing last July 3 of radio broadcaster Rolando Morales of dmMD Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), South Cotabato.

Morales, 43, is the sixth journalist killed this year and the 69th since democracy was supposedly restored in 1986. That he suffered 15 gunshot wounds proves that the killers wanted to make sure he was dead. Killers of journalists have become bolder as a result of the government's failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of past killings where media practitioners were the victims.

The administration should be doubly concerned because 46 percent of the murders happened during the incumbency of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Yes, 32 journalists have died in the hands of assassins since she assumed office in 2001. It comes as no surprise that the Philippines has been called by the Committee to Protect Journalists "the most murderous place in the world" for media practitioners.

Nothing much has been done to solve the killings. Even the creation of the police's Task Force Newsman has not led to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the murders.

The volatility of the political situation should make the Arroyo administration more responsive to this issue. The movement for the President's resignation will only get bigger if the killing spree of journalists continues.

The administration should remember that in the context of press freedom, it has a responsibility to create an atmosphere conducive to the effective practice of the media profession. The administration must ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and that journalists do not end up being punished for engaging in their primary task of truth-telling.

GMA must act now. Her failure to do so could help lead to her downfall.

—DANILO ARAÑA ARAO with 17
other faculty members of the
Department of Journalism,
College of Mass Communication
University of the Philippines (UP),
Diliman, Quezon City

CSC's inaction and empty promise

I AM with the Department of Trade and Industry-Misamis Occidental.

In 1994-1998, I was dismissed from the service on a false charge of absence without official leave. I was reinstated in 1998 after five years of being out of job. I am still stuck in the same position I first occupied in 1990.

Last June 2005, I filed a case against some DTI officers for conspiring to kick me out of the service for five years.

I have read somewhere in one of Karina Constantino-David's speeches that the Civil Service Commission will work on cases within two months. Yet, until now there has been no action on my complaint. I am afraid of a whitewash.

One of the accused had reportedly moved on to head the Phividec Industrial Estate. Others who were involved in my dismissal are still with the DTI, keeping me frozen in my position, concealing from me any news of vacancies of higher positions since 1999 to 2004.

I hope that the CSC could grant the justice due me, and to those who oppressed me, the punishment they deserve.

—MARIO L. CUEZON,
Department of Trade
and Industry,
Misamis Occidental
Provincial Office,
5 JP Quijano St., Oroquieta City

26th Anniversary

National Telecommunications Commission

Securing a bright future through the eNTC

IN LINE with the ten-point agenda of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the NTC stands committed to developing a strategic, reliable and cost efficient ICT infrastructure and system. It shall continue to provide an e-enabling environment while promoting ICT services in areas not adequately served by the private sector. As a regulatory agency, it shall endeavor, at all cost, to protect consumers while ensuring their welfare.

Message

AS we celebrate another momentous occasion for our NTC family in our anniversary in the month of July 2005, let us take time to thank God for the way we have been so richly blessed after another banner year. July signals a new leaf for our commission because it will mark our 26th year as a catalyst in the Telecommunications, Broadcast and CATV Industries. It is a turning point of yet another challenging year ahead to count over blessings. Looking back 26 years hence, one of the most significant turning points in NTC's history was when it officially became the sole government agency mandated to tend to the requisites of the then fledgling but growing Telecommunications, Broadcast and CATV Industries on July 23, 1979. Today, in compliance of our "mission/vision" goal, NTC continues to provide the public with utmost dedication in public service and rely primarily on our "mission/vision" statement in our adherence to the principles of excellence in the service of our fellowmen.

RONALD OLIVAR SOLIS
NTC Commissioner

To address the requirements of the future, the NTC has embarked on the eNTC project, which primarily envisions an electronically-enabled NTC. In essence, it will seek to energize the ICT industry, enable the various stakeholders of the sector, and empower the NTC organization itself. With Deputy Commissioner Jorge V. Sarmiento heading the eNTC Project Implementation Committee, ICT consumers and stakeholders can look forward to such developments as: the computerization of the National Spectrum Management; implementation of web-based services; provision of customer-centric services; establishment of strategic linkages; establishment of integrated office systems; creation of integrated databases; and the efficient generation of information and statistics.

While the project would entail a total budgetary requirement of P582 million, spread throughout the period 2005 to 2009, the NTC leadership has, time and again, pointed out that given the income it earns for the government, which in 2004 reached P1,495,242,468.13, the agency deserves an increase in budget . Interestingly, data would show that despite its large contribution to the national coffers, the NTC budgetary appropriation for 2005 is only P168,663,000. The eNTC project, moreover, should qualify for assistance coming from the e-fund of the government, meant for the institutionalization of e-governance in the country.

United leadership, dedicated staff

Despite the discrepancy between the agency's earnings and its meager budgetary allocation, the National Telecommunications Commission remains hopeful as it seeks to address its problems and concerns in the coming years.

Newly-appointed Deputy Commissioner Jaime Fortes Jr. envisions the "enhancement of our services as well as the capabilities of our staff as we strive to achieve our given mandate using the resources that are available to us, while exploring other legal sources to augment what we now have."

Fortes, while acknowledging the imperative of a budgetary increase, affirms that "the best asset of the agency is its people, both the officials and the staff who are proactive in the pursuit of their respective responsibilities."

Although new in the service, Fortes brings with him years of legal practice that focused on the telecommunications industry. He speaks from experience and first-hand knowledge when he says that "the leadership at the NTC, for the last few years, has made possible the gains that the consumers and other stakeholders in the industry are now enjoying.

"It is this cooperative and supportive relationship among the officials and the staff that has brought NTC to where it is," Fortes concludes.

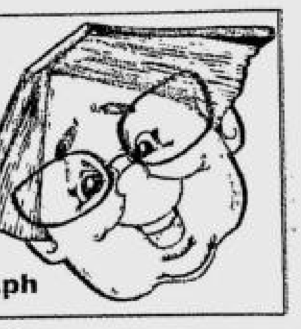
Ten-Point Agenda to "BEAT THE ODDS" in six years

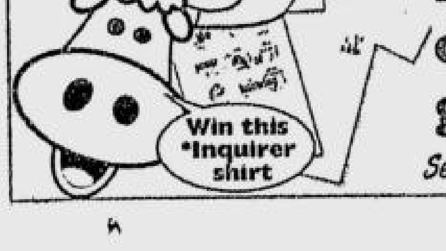
Under the Arroyo Administration

"Beat the Odds - this will be our battle cry and agenda for the next six years"
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

What it stands for

B-Balanced Budget
E-Education for all
A- Automated elections
T- Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country
T- Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts
H - Heal the wounds of Edsa
E- Electricity and water for all barangays
O - Opportunities for 10 million jobs
D- Decongest Metro Manila
DS- D evelop Clark and Subic





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Buknoy
Written by Russell Molina
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July 23, 2005 Today's Question:
Who wrote the award-winning detective novel *Smaller and Smaller Circles*?
A. Katrina Tuvera B. F.H. Batacan C. Bienvenido Santos

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07-15-05 Winner
Dianno M. Rosario
Maharlika Hills, Dolores, Taytay, Rizal

07-22-05 Answer: A
National Artist Edith Tiempo wrote the poetry collection *Marginal Annotations*.

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INQBOX
Question of the Week
Do you think the planned image makeover of President Gloria Arroyo into a friendlier, gentler president will work?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!*
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INQUIRER Visayas
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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Capiceños give thanks for 'diwal'

By Felipe V. Celino
Roxas City

CAPICEÑOS have every reason to be excited nowadays with the holding of the first "Diwal" Festival on July 15 and 16.

ROXAS City celebrates the return of the sweet and juicy seafood called "diwal" in its waters through the first Diwal Festival. PHOTOS BY ARNOLD ALMACEN

The Diwal Festival is the Capiceños' way of giving thanks for the return of diwal, the sweet, juicy and tender bivalve that was lost for almost 10 years after wanton harvest and disregarded of its habitat.

Diwal, "angel wings" in English, resurfaced in the rich coastal waters of Roxas City in May last year after a thorough monitoring and rehabilitation study conducted by the Institute of Aquaculture in the College of Fisheries of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

The study was funded by the city government and was instrumental in bringing back a seafood favorite that most Capiceños thought was gone forever.

Lost and found

The Diwal Festival should be viewed then as a joyful festivity of what was once lost and now found, city officials said.

Diwal was last gathered in the waters of Roxas City in commercial quantity in 1994. However, the unregulated and indiscriminate use of destructive methods in the gathering of the diwal caused its disappearance from the market for almost a decade until the city government of Roxas initiated a move to pave the way for the return of this delicacy.

By declaring a moratorium on the gathering of the diwal and by funding a study on Habitat and Reproductive Biology of Angelwings, *Pholas Orientalis* (Gmelin) that was conducted by the UP-Visayas' Institute of Aquaculture in established diwal sanctuaries, diwal again appeared in commercial volume in May 2004.

Diwal was found in abundance in Punta Cogon here and the gathering of diwal was opened to the public from May 24 to July 16, 2004. The city government closed the gathering of diwal in late July 2004 when the harvest volume reached only 25 kilos per day.

On May 24 this year, the diwal reappeared in commercial quantity and for the second year, the people of Capiz and all diwal-lovers will be able to enjoy this delicacy again.

Decrease in trawling

Like its appearance in 2004, the return of the diwal this year was greatly attributed to the decrease in trawling activities in Roxas City, limited or absence of use of chemicals in various aquaculture activities and the continuing education on how to preserve diwal's existence, spearheaded by the city government under Mayor Antonio del Rosario through the City Agriculture Office.

The return of the diwal and its harvest prompted the local governance to take measures to prevent it from being lost again.

A seafood fest which will focus on the various menus with diwal as the main course has been set for two days to give every visitor a chance to savor its sweet, juicy and tender taste.

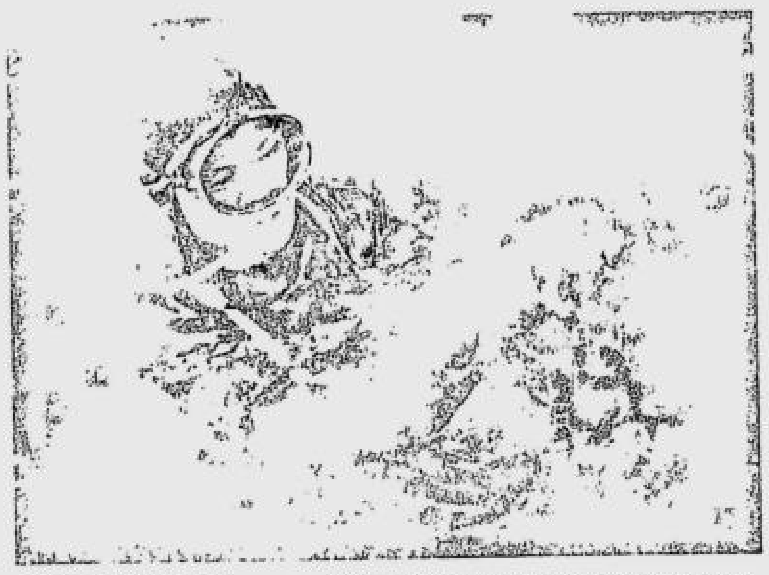
But Mayor Del Rosario said diwal is best eaten when broiled.

Considered as an opportune time to make known to the country what diwal is all about, Capiceños also see its return as a blessing that needs to be shared for everyone to partake.

For the Guinness Book

The Roxas city government intends to place this city in the Guinness Book of World Records by holding the cultural festival of "Diwal Harvest: Roxas Seafood Festival."

Del Rosario said the holding of this festival would attract tourists and local officials from the Western Visayas region to Roxas City.



ALMOST 14,000 kilograms of "diwal" were harvested in almost two months from May 24 to July 16, 2004, according to data from the University of the Philippines-Visayas.

It will likewise promote the development of the diwal culture and production, thus, creating jobs and employment for the fisherfolk involved.

He said Roxas City is not only popular for its marine resources like milkfish, prawn, oysters and sea anemone, but also Capiz shells and other shell products like diwal.

Ideal waters

Researchers disclosed that the waters of Roxas City is ideal for diwal, which thrive in sub-littoral areas to a depth of eight meters during the highest high tide, the bed being bluish gray compact muddy sand. No angel wings were found in sandy mud bottom of the littoral zone.

The diwal is found in the waters of barangays of Punta Cogon, Barra and Libas in Roxas City.

It also thrives in the waters of the coastal villages in the towns of Panay and Sapian in Capiz; Barotac Nuevo, Ajuy, San Dionesio in Iloilo; and in Hinigaran, Villadolid and Bago City in Negros Occidental.

Data from a UP-Visayas research show that the volume of diwal harvested from May 24, 2004, to July 16, 2004, was 13,967.25 kilograms.

With the success of the first Diwal Festival, city tourism officer Rodulfo Maestro said all preparations are geared for another festival for Roxas City, to make the city live up to its name as the Seafood Capital of the Philippines.

Remembering Fr. Rudy Romano

By Romulo O. Ponte

IN THE early '70s, Fr. Rudy Romano was a young member of a team of Redemptorist priests engaged in the "Handumanan sa Misyon (commemorating the mission)" in the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Talisayan, Misamis Oriental.

FR. RUDY Romano

Among the villages he visited was Barangay Pangpangon, 100 km east of Cagayan de Oro City.

A 12-year-old sacristan then felt an inner pride at making every step to get near and possibly assist the good-looking, untiring and no-nonsense preacher—loved by the poor but feared by those who tried to mock the faith.

"During his barrio-to-barrio and town-to-town preaching of the Catholic doctrine, he made parishioners proud of him by handily and easily silencing those who attempted to debate about our Catholic religion," one villager proudly narrated.

In his celebrations of the Mass at the St. Vincent Ferrer Chapel in Pangpangon, Father Rudy sang and taught the people to sing, too. In his songs were revealing messages to those who preferred going to cockfights and gambling every Sunday rather than to the church and pray.

He called the cock-fighters and gamblers as people whose god was money and their holy images were their roosters, coins and gambling paraphernalia. Heaven to them was the cockpit arena, he said.

Influenced

The young sacristan felt an inner mystery and awe at just being with this man of the cloth, whose face showed signs of unmistakable inner joy and contentment.

He had grown so proud in accompanying the clergyman in visiting the sick at home, the un-churched, unbaptized and unmarried couples in villages and mountain communities, and giving them the sacraments without cost.

The boy must have been influenced heavily by this dedicated missionary that when he reached second year high school at the Mount Carmel school run by the Religious of the Virgin Mary, he asked Redemptorist vocation director, Fr. Noel Gaertlan, that he was joining graduating high school students in taking the entrance exams for the Redemptorist Seminary in Cebu City.

Father Gaertlan did not oppose the boy's request.

Later, the priest informed the undergraduate student that he had passed the exams and could already enter the seminary. But he advised him to wait first until he finished high school.

The overexcited youngster could not do anything but agree to wait after finishing high school. But two years later, a slight shift of fate happened when the he finally landed in the Diocesan San Jose de Mindanao College Seminary.

Today, the boy, after several years of serving and getting seminary formation in the Cagayan de Oro Diocese, is now a priest for 13 years—serving the Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna.

Disappearance

The former sacristan later learned that Father Rudy, who he knew to be a holy fighter of the faith and fearless preacher, was involved in harsher apostolate activities. Father Rudy became a target of minions of the Marcos dictatorship.

On July 11, 1985, four years after the college graduation of Father Rudy's admirer, the shocking news of the activist priest's abduction and disappearance circulated among people, particularly those involved in the church.

Father Rudy was reportedly kidnapped by suspected military men in Barangay Tisa, Cebu City. A student leader, Levi Ybañez, was seized that same day in downtown Cebu. The two were never seen again.

Hero

The erstwhile young boy never imagined that his "idol" priest would be gone in a bitter and violent manner. But one thing is still fresh after about 30 years that he had known Father Rudy: He is and was a hero for God and his countrymen. He was consistent as a fighter for the Church and for society.

Father Rudy was truly a martyr, not only for the Church and for Christ, who he had served faithfully until the end, but also for the poorest of the poor who he had consistently fought for even in his early years doing missions.

The boy he had inspired is now the parish priest of Pangil, Laguna.

Mom of ailing student cries for help

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

ARMOND

ARMOND C. Ave, 15, used to live a life full of promises. A campus scholar, he is also known to be good in singing, acting, drawing, public speaking and swimming.

But things changed in December last year when he started complaining of a stiff neck. He also had intermittent fever, body weakness, teary eyes, coughs and colds.

After consulting three or four doctors, Armond's illness was eventually diagnosed by a rheumatologist from the University of the East's Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center as ankylosing spondilitis, a rheumatic disease affecting the spine and entailing a very expensive medication.

The physician estimated the cost of the entire one-year course of treatment at P847,500. This includes the purchase of 18 vials of Infliximab (remicade) worth P35,000 each. Two vials are needed for each of the nine sessions of treatment.

Greta Ave-Martin, the single mother who raised Armond and his two sisters, has tried her best to have him treated despite financial difficulties. Armond was able to undergo two sessions of the treatment costing P238,500.

With only over a week left before the next session on Aug. 3, Greta is now frantic as she is still short of cash. The first sessions not only drained her small savings but also forced her to borrow money from friends and relatives.

She has sold her house and has already availed herself of loans.

Greta, 49, works for a private agency in Tacloban City and her take-home pay is only P5,600 a month. Her two daughters are also studying, with the eldest already in fourth year of her Medicine proper in Manila, while the youngest is in Grade 5.

Appeal

She is appealing to kind-hearted people and establishments or institutions for help in her effort to save her son. "I am beginning to feel despair as I am in terrible grief where and when to find financial resources for this coming treatment session and the subsequent sessions."

Armond's condition has worsened since he was diagnosed of his illness. He cannot turn his head sideways. His muscles in the cervical area are tender and he cannot freely move his feet.

Due to his illness, he failed to enroll as a third year high school student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. At present, he is staying with his elder sister at Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Armond Ave's mother can be reached at her house in Barangay 84, Rainbow Village, Manlurip, San Jose, Tacloban City, tel. No. (053) 325-2376 and mobile phone No. 0915-559-5367.

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Cebu, Bacolod drivers gear for strike vs Sona

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Transport groups in Cebu and Bacolod are set to hold a day-long transport strike on Monday as President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address (Sona).

The Cebu strike will be spearheaded by the city's two major transport groups—the Alliance of Transport Organization Members intra-Cebu City (Atomic), which has more than 1,000 members operating within Cebu City, and the Nagkahiusang Drayber sa Sugbo (Nadsu), which has over 5,000 driver-members plying the Metro Cebu routes.

Atomic supported the President in the last elections but is now calling for her resignation, according to the group's leader, Rudy Laconsa.

Atomic is part of the multi-sectoral organization and militant groups called Laban ng Masa which will also hold a caravan and a march-rally here in Cebu this coming Monday to call for her resignation.

"She is like a reckless driver of our country," Laconsa said, as he pointed to the abrupt P3 increase per liter of gasoline upon the implementation of the Expanded Value Added Tax (E-VAT) on July 1.

Two transport groups in Negros Occidental, the Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Associations (Febacda) and the Alliance of Progressive Labor-National Transport Union, are also joining the nationally coordinated transport strike on Monday.

Negros protests

The strike is being staged to call for the granting of a P2 jeepney fare hike in the provinces similar to what was implemented in Metro Manila and the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law, according to Elizabeth Katalbas, Febacda president.

She said the protesters expect to paralyze about 60 percent of public transportation in Bacolod City and some parts of Negros Occidental.

Even if a P1 fare hike was granted recently it was not enough for drivers to cope with the continuing rise in fuel prices, Katalbas said.

Militant groups in Cebu, Bacolod and Negros Occidental led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) are also set to hold protest rallies on Monday in time for the President's Sona and to protest her continued stay in office.

Ms Arroyo has claimed Cebu to be one of her bailiwicks after the province delivered a 1 million vote margin that led to her victory in the 2004 presidential elections.

Ms Arroyo has been accused of rigging that elections after a wiretap of conversations she had with former election official Virgilio Garcillano surfaced.

EMPLOYED

ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

Workers plant sugarcane in a farm in Bacolod City. President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to enjoy firm support in the country's sugar heartland amid allegations of vote-rigging, corruption and a failing economy.

More villagers flee homes in Samar reb areas

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

BASEY, Samar—The municipal government of this town continues to face evacuees from its interior villages with 300 more families fleeing their homes due to massive military operations in their villages.

The previous set of about 1,000 evacuees, who occupied the gymnasium on Tuesday, agreed to return home last Thursday afternoon upon assurance that they would be given security and assistance.

Vilma Tiu, municipal social welfare officer, said that more than 300 families or over 1,500 persons came down from the adjacent villages of Mabini and Manlilinab, and sought refuge at the town gymnasium since Thursday evening.

Mabini and Manlilinab are two of the most interior barangays of Basey, 40 km from the regional capital of Tacloban City.

The new group of evacuees left their villages at 2 a.m. on Thursday and walked for more than eight hours to reach the town proper.

Monica Pacayra, Mabini village chair, said they were forced to flee their homes out of fear, as the sound of gunfire drew closer to their village.

She said they first heard bursts of gunfire on July 14. It was quiet for several days until July 19, when the gun firing resumed and continued to the next day.

She said that while they were fleeing their homes, they heard a big blast that sounded like a bomb had been dropped somewhere, close to their village.

Col. Noel Cabides, deputy brigade officer of the 801st Infantry Battalion based in Hinabangan, Samar, admitted that for several days now, members of the 46th Infantry Brigade under Lt. Col. Manuel Ramos have been conducting operations against communist rebels in the area.

Cabides said they believed that members of the New People's Army have a camp in the interior villages of Basey.

Ex-cop tagged in extortion killed in clash with NBI

DAGUPAN CITY—A dismissed policeman who was allegedly involved in extortion, was killed in a clash with National Bureau of Investigation agents and city policemen on Thursday night.

The suspect's companion, also a dismissed policeman, escaped after the encounter on Arellano Bani Street here at 7 p.m.

Supt. Noli Taliño, Dagupan police chief, identified the slain suspect as Senior Insp. Aldrin Agustin, 30, formerly of the Ilocos regional mobile group based in San Fernando City. His companion, PO3 Arnel Cave, formerly of the San Juan police in Metro Manila, escaped.

Taliño said they were the suspects in the planting of a Molotov cocktail at a local department store earlier Thursday.

The bomb, which was found at a door of the Maya Emporium here, was defused by the police.

Taliño said the owner of the Maya Emporium refused to give the P1 million demanded by the suspects who claimed to be communist rebels.

Taliño said they entrapped Agustin and Cave by calling them through a mobile phone number that they left with the owner of the department store. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Veggie trade indicator: Drunken Benguet farmers

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BUGUIAS, Benguet—How's the vegetable industry these days? Ask your neighborhood drunk.

In Barangay Abatan, one of the major commercial centers of this vegetable-producing town, the number of people who drink inside bars or who get arrested for violating the liquor ban ordinance is used to determine if the local vegetable industry is faring well in the market.

"The vice has become an economic indicator," said Delfin Vicente, secretary of the town council.

"If there are many people ordering [liquor] or seen walking unsteadily on the street, this means the farmers have just engaged a good harvest and can afford to relax and entertain themselves," Delfin told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Mayor Tomas Palileng smiled when asked if the observation is true.

"Yes. That's the trend here. We know that once these eateries and bars are full of people, it means good times. It means that the farmers have sold their vegetables at prices considered profitable," Palileng said.

The town is a fourth class municipality with an annual income of P35 million. It has a population of 38,400, 90 percent of whom are farmers.

It has at least three commercial centers—Natubleng, Sinipsip and Abatan.

Abatan, with a population of 2,050, hosts Buguias' main public market and town hall.

Data from the town treasurer's office bear out Palileng's admission—Abatan has 446 business establishments and about 65 percent of them are engaged in selling liquor.

Vicente said Abatan is northern Benguet's commercial and trade center since farmers and traders have found the area suited to their business interests and rest and recreation.

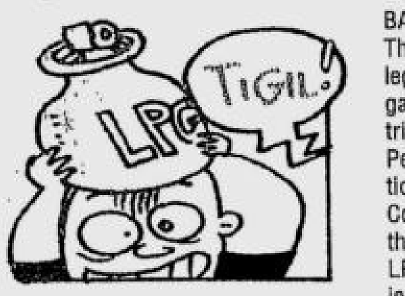
"Abatan is so strategically located that farmers from outside the province converge here often...," he said.

He said farmers from nearby Mankayan and Bakun towns, Cervantes in Ilocos Sur, Tinoc in Ifugao and Bauko in Mt. Province often visit the place.

"Even migrant traders are here already, selling those pirated video compact discs and other stuff," he said.

ROUNDUP

Cops bust LPG network



BAGUIO CITY—Police here on Thursday cut off a supply chain of illegally refilled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks that are being distributed to variety stores in the city. Personnel of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the Cordillera arrested 20 drivers as their trucks left the compound of an LPG refilling station that was subject of a government investigation, said Senior Supt. Marvin Bolabola, CIDG regional director. Senior Supt. Ricarte Marquez, CIDG investigation chief, said more than 1,000 LPG tanks bore fake seals and were confirmed to be underweight.
Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

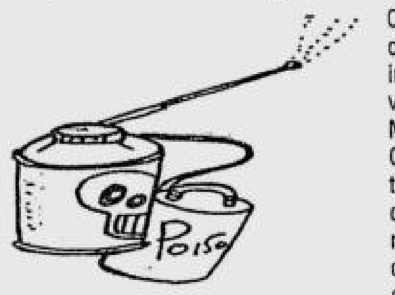
'Hot' lumber seized

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized 13,834 board feet of illegally sawn lumber in San Mariano town on July 20. Felix Taguba, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the confiscated lumber in Barangay Minanga was worth P275,000. Taguba said the DENR's operation in the town was prompted by complaints from Catholic priests and local officials on the rampant logging and transport of lumber there.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ilocos Sur dad killed

CANDON CITY—A councilor in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, was gunned down in Narvacan town on Wednesday night. Police said Bantay Councilor Criselda Bundoc-Collo, 32, stopped by a gasoline station in Barangay Orence in Narvacan at about 7:30 p.m. when two men in a motorcycle arrived and shot her in the back. The suspects were armed with a .45 cal. pistol. Collo died before reaching the Ilocos Central District Hospital in Narvacan.
Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Organic learning center



CITY OF CALAPAN—A half-hectare organic learning center established in Socorro town is expected to provide technical assistance to two Mangyan people's organizations in Oriental Mindoro in pursuing traditional farming against the use of chemicals and pesticides, said Enrique Tupaz, team leader of the Security Sustainability Management on Ancestral Domain Program of the Mangyan Mission. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Migrant desk in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—An Overseas Filipino Workers' migrant desk will soon open in Oriental Mindoro after the Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed a resolution authorizing Gov. Arnan Panaligan to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Awards nominations on

CITY OF CALAPAN—Nominations are open for the Gintong Kabataan Awards 2005 sponsored by the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Youth and Development Council. Categories are for individual and group awards. An amount of P20,000 each will go to individual awardees for literature and arts, leadership, cultural development and preservation, environmental care, civic/public service, sports excellence, entrepreneurship, invention/science, mass media/communications, and act of heroism. Group awardees will get P25,000. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

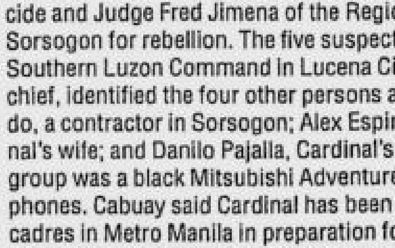
Amok kills 1

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A detainee at the Palawan provincial jail went amuck, killing one and hurting eight fellow inmates, on Saturday evening while everyone was watching TV. Bernardo Timbulan, 22, who was facing rape charges, killed fellow detainee Russel Denso, 22. Jail warden Ramon Espina said it happened after Timbulan and Denso had a heated argument while they were watching TV. Timbulan went to his cell and came back with an improvised knife made from a metal pail handle. He stabbed everyone along his way and killed Denso. The other inmates mobbed him and took his knife. After that, he was left lying, with 40 stab wounds, according to a National Bureau of Investigation report. Timbulan was a member of the Commando Gang while Denso was a Sigue-Sigue Sputnik Gang member. Espina immediately ordered an inspection for deadly weapons and temporarily stopped the privileges of inmates such as watching TV and accepting visitors. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA commander held

LEGAZPI CITY—A top New People's Army leader in Sorsogon and four companions were arrested in Barangay Taisan, Sipocot, Camarines Sur by elements of the Intelligence and Security Group of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the 31st Infantry Battalion of the 9th Infantry Brigade while en route to Sorsogon from Manila. A military report identified the arrrested NPA leader as Monaco Cardinal alias Nilo Cardinal, Cho and Nick, alleged secretary of the provincial committee of Sorsogon. Cardinal and four others were arrested by virtue of warrants of arrest issued by Judge Norberto Dating of San Lorenzo Ruiz (Camarines Norte) Municipal Trial Court for homicide and Judge Fred Jimena of the Regional Trial Court Branch 55 in Irosin, Sorsogon for rebellion. The five suspects were brought to the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command in Lucena City. Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Solcom chief, identified the four other persons arrested as engineer Dumbar Mercado, a contractor in Sorsogon; Alex Espino, a driver; Julieta Pajalla, Cardinal's wife; and Danilo Pajalla, Cardinal's brother-in-law. Seized from the group was a black Mitsubishi Adventure with license plate XAU 737 and cell phones. Cabuay said Cardinal has been coordinating with other communist cadres in Metro Manila in preparation for a plot to sow terror during the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Typhoon relief for rehab



CITY OF CALAPAN—To make calamity aid sustainable for Mangyans who were victims of typhoons in November last year, the money for relief was used for a food-for-work project for more than 700 Mangyan families from Mansalay to Bulalacao towns, according to Policarpio Morada, coordinator of the Sustainable Program of the Mangyan Mission. Through self-help, the Mangyans have planted their damaged farms with new crops. Each Mangyan family tills a minimum of one hectare. Morada said they did not just give away money but first asked the Mangyan families to come up with plans for their farms, the worth of the damage and the kinds of seeds that they needed to rehabilitate their land. The Mangyans adopted a multicropping system as they requested for seedlings for fruit-bearing and hardwood trees and vegetables. An agro-forestry development program will also be undertaken, according to Enrique Tupaz, team leader of the Security Sustainability Management on Ancestral Domain Program of the MM.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Palace declares Sona day a holiday in Metro

From page A1

vices Monday.

The Department of Labor and Employment yesterday said that private sector workers in Metro Manila who will go to work on Monday will receive an additional 30 percent of their hourly pay.

Undersecretary for Labor Relations Manuel Imson said they will also get another 30 percent of their hourly rate for every hour they work overtime.

If the day falls on an employee's rest day and he reports to work, he will get 50 percent more of his daily salary. If he works overtime, he gets an additional 30 percent to his hourly rate.

The no-work, no-pay policy applies if he does not report for work, except if there is a favorable company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement granting payment on a special day even if the day is unworked.

Traffic rerouted

To maintain peace and order during the Sona, the police has formulated a traffic rerouting scheme and deployed thousands of anti-riot and security personnel to secure the Batasan complex and its neighboring areas where rallyists from both the pro-administration and anti-GMA groups are expected to converge.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol said around 16,000 policemen would be deployed during the Sona, including the "anti-hoodlum" units to prevent criminals from taking advantage of the situation.

Querol said that security during the Sona would be so tight that everybody will be frisked—but very courteously.

"I think everybody will be frisked, but in a very courteous manner," he said.

Querol said everybody would go through the same procedure, including members of Congress, noting that this is also being done in the United States.

Yesterday, top police and military officials, a representative from the Presidential Security Group, and House of Representatives sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic met in Camp Crame to iron out the final security arrangements for the Sona.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, who presided over the meeting, said he expects peaceful demonstrations.

"We have deployed enough and sufficient forces to cope with any contingency," he said.

Full alert

The NCRPO said it would put its force on full alert starting Sunday morning.

The security measures would also cover the opening of the second regular session of the 13th Congress which would be six hours before Ms Arroyo's Sona.

Members of the Special Action Force and plainclothes policemen shall also be deployed inside the Batasan complex. Outside Congress, some 6,000 anti-riot cops will be fielded.

In the last few days, policemen have also been "sweeping" the communities near Congress to ensure that there will no infiltrators among the ranks of protesters.

The police have received information that the New People's Army Guerrilla Fronts and Zones have been placed on alert status in connection with the plot to oust Ms Arroyo.

Reports also said the CPP-NPA hierarchy allegedly was beginning to convince religious groups to support mass actions.

To ensure the safety of protesters, Querol said "Task Force Sagip," composed of more than a hundred rescue personnel from the Philippine National Police, Department of Health, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Bureau of Fire Protection, has been formed.

Rules of the game

Querol said pro-government and anti-Arroyo protesters would not be allowed to get near each other.

"We had met with the rally organizers so they would understand the rules of the game," he added.

Pro-administration rallyists would assemble at Philcoa, while oppositionists and militant groups would only be allowed at Ever Gotesco.

Querol said the two groups would be at least half a kilometer away from each other.

Police said only the northbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue would be open to protesters. Traffic flow will continue on the southbound lane.

Anti-Arroyo protesters can occupy the entire northbound stretch of Commonwealth Avenue from the corner of Tandang Sora Avenue to the area in front of the Ever Gotesco mall.

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said this was the first time in recent years that the militant group was given a permit to stage a demonstration on Commonwealth Avenue during the Sona.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte gave the protesters from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday to stage their protest on the only main thoroughfare leading to the Batasan complex.

"This is the first time that we were given a permit for a Sona rally. And it was given quite quickly," Reyes said. The militant leader told the INQUIRER that Bayan applied for a permit for Monday's demonstration on Thursday.

Boy with dreams on paper boat a GMA loyalist

From page A1

really knowing what the rally is all about," he said in Filipino. "They should just help the government."

Pro-Arroyo rally

Erwin and his 68-year-old father Ernesto went to the well-attended "pro-Arroyo" rally at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila last July 16. They not only wanted to show their support for the distressed Ms Arroyo. He said they turned up for a much deeper purpose.

"We prayed for the crisis to stop," the boy said.

Father and son apparently were not afraid to say their piece even if it ran counter to the position of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), a peasant group demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster.

It was Kadamay that organized the children's boat-sailing activity on the Pasig River, eventually bringing their plight to the attention of Malacañang in 2001.

Education comes first

But with the political turmoil showing no signs of ending soon, Erwin resolved that his best option was to focus on his education.

He is now a sophomore at the Payatas High School, a five-minute jeepney ride from his house located at the foot of the dump.

He is making the most of the opportunity.

Erwin spends most of his time in school, owing to a grueling schedule that keeps him there from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. But showing no signs of fatigue, he stays up late into the night doing his homework. He wakes up to open books, studies till noon and then prepares to leave for school.

Bright student with a goal

The effort has paid off. Erwin is the third best student in his class.

He's thinking of taking up Accounting in college but he said he needed to improve his math. He's good in science but medicine does not appeal to him. Mass communication and education are among his prospective courses, too.

Erwin said he preferred his demanding personal regimen instead of mixing with the seemingly dreamless youths in the neighborhood.

"I don't want to join them," he admitted. "I don't want to acquire their vices and their bad ways."

His goals, he said, were just too important to be sacrificed to the wayward ways of the young.

Payatas for better or worse

"I want to finish school and land a good job so I'll be able to return to my family everything that they've done for me," he said.

When he finally attains success, he said he won't leave Payatas as many of his friends dream of. He said he would simply build a decent, concrete house to replace the old one that reeks of the stench of the nearby piggery.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Jayson and Jomer, now 14 years old, but they declined to be interviewed.

Emma Alutaya, the Kadamay member monitoring the children's education and livelihood, said Jayson, having lost his entire family in the garbage slide, didn't want to relive the tragedy anymore.

Jomer's mother did not say why her son declined to be interviewed, according to Alutaya.

Not forgotten

Recalling conversations with Jayson's relatives, Erwin's mother Dalmacia said the boy was doing well in school. He's a high school sophomore in a school in Diliman.

"Jayson has no problem with his academics," Dalmacia recounted. "He's a bright student. The only problem is that his classmates sometimes tease him, calling him a scavenger from Payatas. He's hurt by that."

Alutaya said that Jomer seemed to be having problems, entirely of his own doing. "He's struggling in school. He doesn't seem to have the drive. That's why he's got failing grades," she said.

Because of his attitude, he has to be constantly reminded about the rare opportunity he got from the government, Alutaya said.

Erwin, Jayson and Jomer receive P18,750 yearly for their schooling. Not bad, considering that the Department of Social Welfare and Development has also been supporting 105 other children from Payatas since the 2001 Sona.

More importantly, Erwin said their President, though besieged by critics including her former Social Welfare secretary, had not forgotten them.

House …

From page A1

Relations and Information Department seems to have omitted Congress' most important guest on Monday—President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Amid raging political turmoil, Ms Arroyo will deliver her fifth State of the Nation Address (Sona) before the joint session of Congress at the House of Representatives.

In previous Sonas, the President's name or photo appeared on the IDs, and on two occasions this year, the names of Chinese Premier Hu Jintao and Pakistani President Pervez Musharaff, who both addressed Congress last April, were on the ID cards.

This time, neither Ms Arroyo's name nor picture can be found on the ID cards.

The front of the ID card reads in descending order: "Sona 2005, (3rd) regular session, 13th Congress of the Philippines, joint session for the State of the Nation Address of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, July 25, 2005."

The back of the card bears the emblems of the presidency, the House and the Senate.

One and only

Deputy Secretary General Emmanuel Albano said this only meant that the country had one and only chief executive at this point—Ms Arroyo.

"It's a non-issue. It's not an oversight, *wala namang ano yan* (it doesn't mean anything)," said Albano, explaining that it's an affirmation that people need not be reminded about their highest leader.

"She's the President. There's only one President at a given time. No question about it," he added.

'Handwriting on the wall'

But opposition Rep. Jacinto Paras said: "The writing is on the wall. [It's a sign], an indication that the people no longer want her. I hope she will listen to the clamor of the people and finally step down."

Paras said Ms Arroyo would face tumultuous times ahead should Congress start with the impeachment process come Monday.

Impeachment case in peril

From page A1

law, if the accused has already answered, the issues are joined. So the complainant will have to seek first the consent of the court and the accused before making any amendments or filing supplemental affidavits," he added.

Cayetano, impeachment spokesperson of the minority, said the opposition went through all the rigors of preparing for the last two weeks its own impeachment case because it relied on Ms Arroyo's own challenge to "bring your grievance to Congress.'"

Signed by GMA

"The people sincerely believe that the grievances will be addressed fairly and [they won't be treated like] pigs being led to the slaughter," said Cayetano.

Should the administration-controlled Congress "subvert the rule of law" the people "may take things into their hands," he warned.

Lead impeachment prosecutor Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said: "We might as well quit."

On Tuesday, Ferrer filed with House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno a document titled, "Answer Ex Abundante Ad Cautelam."

Ferrer said that the document—which denies in general terms Lozano's charges against Ms Arroyo consisting of betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution and corruption—was signed by Ms Arroyo in his presence in Malacañang Monday.

Nazareno, who has made himself scarce since Tuesday, has already informed House Deputy Secretary General Noel Albano that the document "will become part of the attachment" when Speaker Jose de Venecia refers the impeachment complaint to the appropriate House committee for action.

'A kangaroo court'

An angry Cayetano said at the press conference that if the majority wanted to "bastardize the process and make a mockery out of the process, then we might as well stop this kangaroo court of a process."

Cayetano said that although Ferrer's answer was a mere "piece of paper," Ms Arroyo's supporters in the House might invoke a technicality and use the Ferrer document to block opposition efforts to amend Lozano's original impeachment complaint.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero has said the Lozano complaint was inherently "weak," while Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla described it as a "toilet paper."

In a phone interview, Ferrer said Ms Arroyo summoned him to Malacañang on Monday after being "hired by the President" to prepare the answer.

"It was the President who was the one supplying the facts. We want to put on record that we're refuting the allegations contained in the impeachment complaint," he said.

But comparing Ms Arroyo's signature in the P50 bill, the document rather contained a shorter presidential signature—only "Gloria Arroyo," with the name "Macapagal" omitted.

Opposition threat

"Malacañang should speak up. Was the signature doctored? … If not, we're treating it at face value, although it's still a piece of paper," said Cayetano.

"It's clear that it was too early for [Ms Arroyo] to do so [file an answer]. If they will soil the process this early, we will not participate anymore. Surveys show that people want a clean and fair impeachment process," added the lawmaker.

Asked about Ferrer, chief presidential legal counsel Merceditas Gutierrez said he was a law practitioner for many years.

"He is the President's counsel of record but he will be assisted by a number of lawyers at the proper time. The President had to file the answer … The side of the President must be heard," Gutierrez said.

Claudio made no further comment.

Humbled, honored

"I was humbled and honored that the President chose me to represent her," Ferrer said.

"No, my wife never worked for (President Arroyo). But yes, she was a classmate of the first gentleman (since) they graduated (from) ADMU."

Ferrer denied being a partner of the Villaraza Law Office, saying he was running his own firm, the Ferrer Law Office.

A practicing trial counsel since 1973, he had lawyered for several mayors, governors and congressmen in Mindanao. He transferred to Manila in 1985.

Ferrer denied that Ms Arroyo's camp was trying to preempt the filing of a supplemental complaint by the opposition.

"This is not to limit [the complaint]. That was not my objective but to answer point by point Lozano's allegations. We feel it's the best time to answer the allegations," said Ferrer.

He stressed that since the impeachment rules had yet to be promulgated by the House, Ms Arroyo was not "disallowed" from answering the charges this early.

Anticipatory pleading

"We have not received any notice from Congress to file our answer but we're able to get a copy of [the complaint]. We immediately filed that. It's called anticipatory pleading. We can do that. The President can exercise her rights," he said.

He noted that with the endorsement by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta of the impeachment complaint, there was no impediment for the President to file "that in advance so that at least [she has] already answered the complaint."

He admitted that the Lozano complaint had an "impact" on Ms Arroyo, but did not elaborate.

"Of course we have to prepare for that for quite some time," said Ferrer, who said he was alone when he was summoned by Ms Arroyo.

Prior to the filing by Ferrer of the answer, the opposition, through Lozano, who had consented to amending his complaint, theoretically had been at liberty to come up with a stronger case against Ms Arroyo.

But Cayetano said the opposition had one ace left: insist that Ms Arroyo was not duly notified by Congress, thus the filing of her answer was disallowed.

"This will bring back the status quo ante [prior to the filing of the answer]," said Cayetano, insisting that, in the alternative, the opposition could question the authority of Nazareno to receive the answer.

Legal trap

Cayetano said that under Section 8 of the old rules of impeachment, Ms Arroyo was not supposed to answer until there was a finding by the justice committee that the complaint was sufficient in substance.

Cayetano said that the opposition had always viewed the avenue of ousting Ms Arroyo via the impeachment process as a legal trap owing to the numerical superiority of administration lawmakers.

"We were always for the resignation of the President. We never abandoned the call for her to resign because the President will not be able to recover and govern effectively," Cayetano said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Larrañaga turns to GMA as last option

From page A1

City jail, she noted.

Ms Larrañaga celebrated her 60th birthday with her imprisoned son on July 20.

In Cebu, Thelma Chiong appealed to Paco's mother to accept the high court's decision and to stop making moves that could only bring back bitter memories.

Spain's legal groups

Chiong was referring to the Larrañaga family's move to enlist the help of Spain's legal groups in asking the Philippine Supreme Court for a retrial of the case. Paco carries dual citizenship, Filipino and Spanish, because his father is a Spaniard.

Daughters' fate

"By this time, I hope she (Ms Larrañaga) will learn to accept this … as I have accepted the fate of my daughters. I hope they will give peace to our family … [I hope] they will no longer give [us] pain by doubting the decision of the court," she said.

Chiong noted that the decision came a few days after the 8th anniversary of her daughters' abduction last Sunday which they observed with a Mass at the Queen City Memorial Garden, where Mary Joy is buried. The body of Jacqueline was never found.

Chiong said she was planning to offer a thanksgiving Mass next weekend at the cemetery with family and friends.

But the Supreme Court had yet to rule on the motion of the sixth death convict, James Andrew "MM" Uy, who asked the court for reconsideration in view of his being a minor. James Andrew was only 17 years and 262 days old when the crimes were committed.

The high court ordered the solicitor general to secure from the local civil registrar of Cotabato City (his birthplace) as well as the National Statistics Office a clear and legible copy of James Andrew's birth certificate.

In the case of James Andrew's younger brother, James Anthony alias "Wangwang," the Supreme Court also affirmed its earlier decision to sentence him to life imprisonment since he was clearly a minor at the time the crime was committed.

Night of the murders

The Chiong sisters Jacqueline, 23, and Marie Joy, 20, were abducted on the evening of July 16, 1997, while waiting for their father to pick them up at the Ayala Center Cebu. Mary Joy's body was found two days later in a secluded ravine in nearby Carcar town.

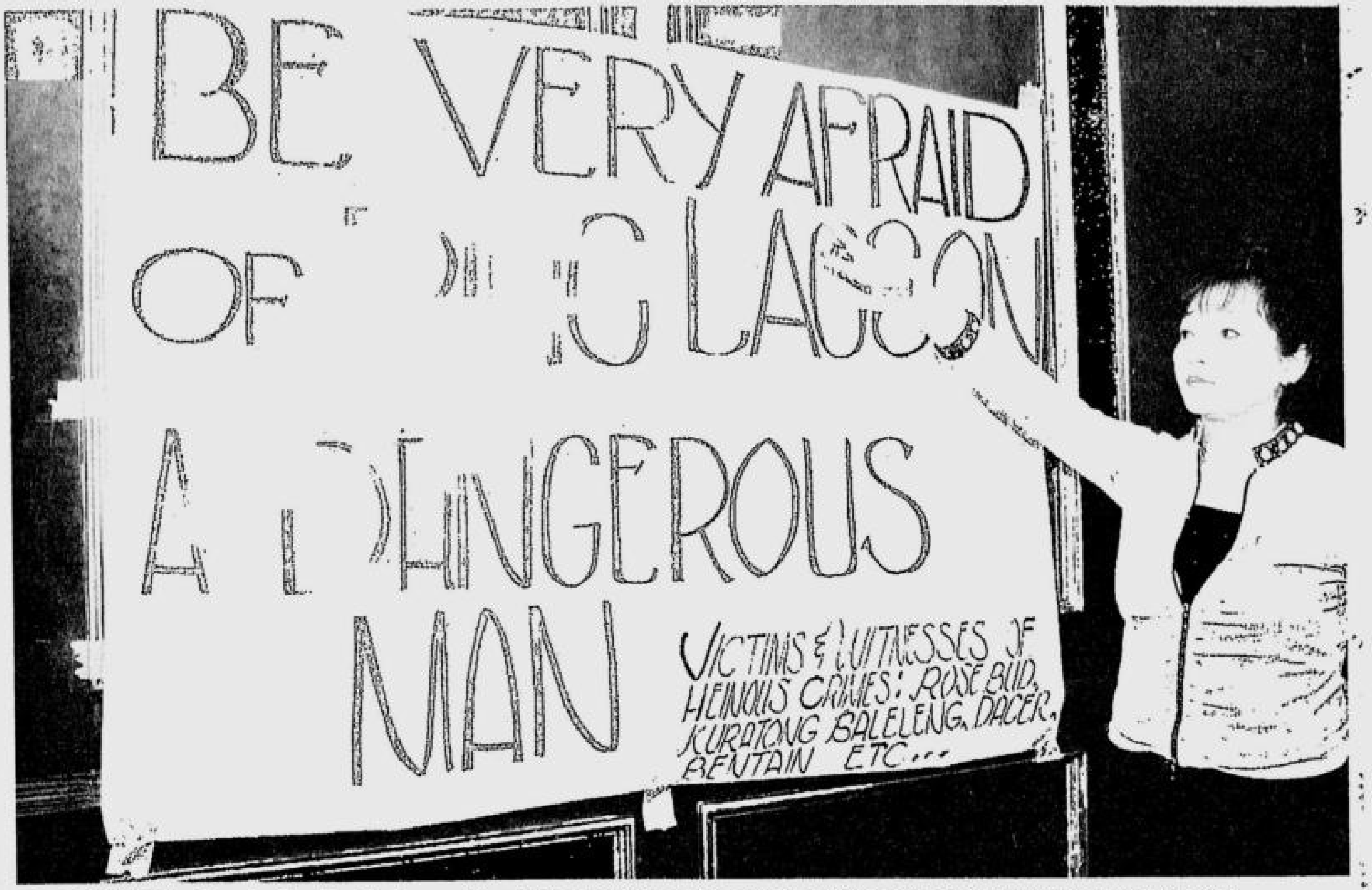
In February 2004, the Supreme Court imposed the death penalty on six of the convicts, affirming the two life sentences handed down by the late Judge Martin Ocampo on May 5, 1999.

Ocampo was found dead in a hotel room in October 1999. The authorities later ruled that it was suicide and no foul play was involved.

Paco, a nephew of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, had asked the high court to reconsider its decision, claiming that he was in Quezon City when the Chiongs were abducted and brutally murdered.

Rosebud's rally steals show from Ping's Sona

By Tina G. Santos
and TJ Burgonio



TO COUNTER the Sona by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Mary "Rosebud" Ong holds a press conference to deliver a warning about the man.

JESS YUSON

TENSION gripped Manila Hotel yesterday after relatives of victims of the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case tried to reenact the incident and staged a lightning rally at about the same time that Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, who they claimed was responsible for the crime, was delivering his own State of the Nation Address (Sona).

A shouting match erupted briefly between supporters of Lacson and the relatives of the heinous crime victims but cooler heads intervened and prevented the verbal altercation from turning physical.

The group was led by Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former intelligence asset of Lacson's group, who has accused the senator of various heinous crimes, apart from the controversial rubout, during the latter's stint as chief of the Philippine National Police.

But Lacson shrugged off the attempt by Ong's group to upstage his Sona delivery.

"For whatever it is worth, I delivered the true Sona this morning," he said.

Lacson repeatedly refused to comment on the group's presence and criticisms against him when he faced the press after delivering a lengthy speech on the "true state" of the country at the hotel's crowded Sampaguita Room.

True Sona

"I have no comment," he curtly told reporters even as he confirmed receiving reports about the plans of Ong's group as early as Thursday night. "I don't want to comment on that anymore. It's useless."

Lacson later told reporters that the anti-Sona rally was an indication that Ong's group recognized the day's event.

"That only shows that they are giving importance to the event this morning—the delivery of the true Sona. Because if not, they would not waste their money to come here," he told reporters.

The rally by Ong's group was among the highlights of the group's launching of "Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid of Ping" (BABVAP) Movement which renewed calls for a reinvestigation and immediate resolution of the cases allegedly committed by the senator.

Ong's group derided Lacson for having the gall to deliver his own Sona.

Apart from the relatives of the KB victims, family and friends of slain PR man Bubby Dacer, his driver Emmanuel Corbito and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) security officer Edgar Bentain also held a Mass in front of the hotel in memory of the victims.

'Mr. Clean he ain't'

"Lacson portrays himself as Mr. Clean, exposing the ills of society and corruption in the highest places. He tells us not to be afraid and join him in his crusade to cleanse the society. But his victims know better. He is perhaps the most dangerous person alive in the country," Ong said.

She added that Lacson should stop pursuing his ambition of leading the country as he has "no moral ascendancy to lead in any way."

"He has long been wanting to become the president, he doesn't have the right to be one. He has been riding all the issues from 'jueteng and' 'Garci' tapes. We should be more discerning of his true intentions."

Lacson, however, scoffed at insinuations that he was virtually presenting himself as an alternative to President Macapagal-Arroyo by deciding to deliver his own version of the Sona.

"Every Filipino has the right to present the true state of the nation. It doesn't follow that when you deliver or when you give the true Sona, you are already presenting yourself as the leader of the nation," he said.

"Even you, when you're armed with data or with information, you can inform the whole nation, your neighbors, your friends on what's really happening in the Philippines," Lacson pointed out.

Read between the lines

Although Ong did not directly say that Lacson was the brains behind the various allegations hurled against the government, she said "people should learn how to read between the lines."

"Those personalities involved in the controversies hounding the government, particularly in the "Garci" tapes (former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director) Sammy Ong, (Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines agent Vidal) Doble, among others, they all have links with Ping, analyze his connections with these people," Ong said.

However, Ong was quick to add that Malacañang did not pay her even a single centavo to match Lacson's Sona. "This is my own initiative ... We cannot stand idly and listen to his bold promises that he would cleanse the nation. Can an executioner offer aid when his hands reek with blood of all his victims," Ong said.

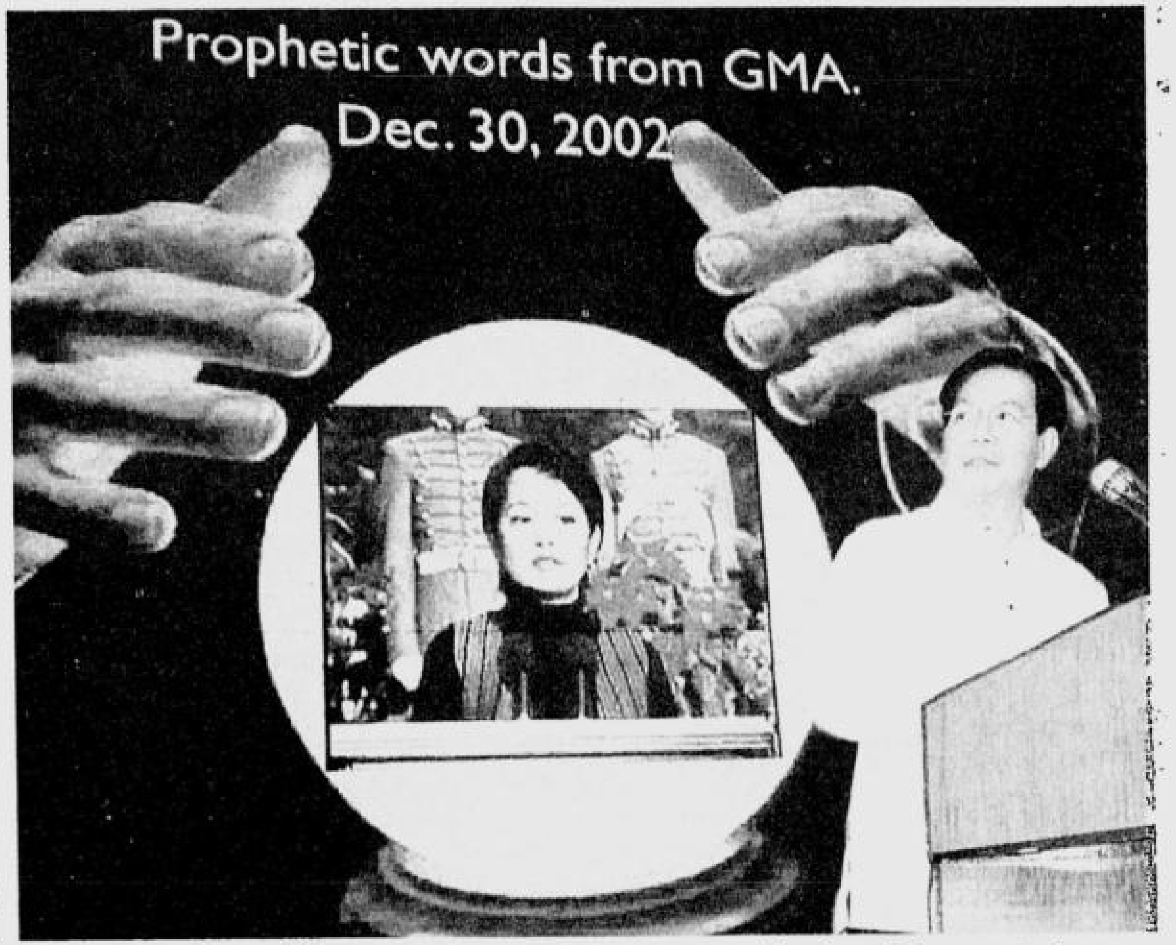
The Kuratong Baleleng rubout sleeps in courts because of dilatory tactics of Lacson and his cohorts, she claimed.

She added that Bentain, whose only sin was to capture Estrada on the security camera gambling millions of pesos in the high-roller room of the Grand Boulevard Hotel, was abducted and tortured before his body was thrown into the lahar of Pampanga.

Dacer, who reportedly refused Lacson's request to help him as he was helping Lacson's foes, was abducted and killed along with his driver, she added.

"I challenge him to be man enough to face all the cases filed against him. His track record of involvement in murder cases is a real cause for fear and indication that he may pose clear and present danger to the nation," Ong stressed.

An ally of Lacson offered a theory on the move of Ong's group: "Perhaps, the government feels intimidated because Senator Lacson is now being embraced by the people as their leader. The surveys have shown that."



"THE TRUE" State of the Nation, according to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, with a PowerPoint presentation on Friday morning.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/JESS YUSON

London gets . . .

From page A1

derground subway trains and a double-decker bus, was a chilling echo of the July 7 attacks, except that those happened in the morning rush hour.

Unlike the devastation of a fortnight before, when 56 people died and more than 700 were injured, Thursday's repeat attacks caused no casualties as the backpack-borne bombs seemingly failed to detonate fully.

Witnesses reported hearing loud pops like guns or corks as smoke poured from the backpacks, testimony which experts said indicated that the bombs' detonators went off but failed to ignite the main charges.

"Clearly the intention must have been to kill. You don't do this with any other intention," the head of London's Metropolitan Police, Ian Blair, said on Thursday.

Commuters warily returned to the Underground network, although the three stations involved in Thursday's incidents remained closed—along with those stricken by the July 7 blasts.

Officers refused to give details of their investigation, but the evidence from witnesses strongly indicated that the latest attacks, like those of July 7, were planned as suicide attacks.

One London businessman recounted coming face to face with a dazed man lying on the floor on top of his smoking backpack, seemingly in a state of shock at still being alive.

Abisha Moyo told the Daily Mail newspaper that he was on a subway train near Shepherd's Bush station in west London, the site of the first reported near-simultaneous train blasts, when he was startled by a loud bang.

He saw a young, smartly-dressed man lying face up on top of a rucksack.

"He had his eyes shut and there was a puff of smoke coming from the bag," Moyo said, recounting how the man eventually regained his senses and fled from the train.

At almost exactly the same time, passengers on trains at two other stations, Oval to the south and Warren Street in the center, reported similar incidents.

Ivan McCracken, on the train at Warren Street, said fellow passengers described seeing a man carrying a backpack which exploded.

"It was a minor explosion but enough to blow open the rucksack. The man then made an exclamation as if something had gone wrong. At that point everyone rushed from the carriage."

A similar event at Oval station sparked a dramatic chase during which the young presumed bomber wriggled free from pursuers on the platform before being tackled by a florist just outside the station but escaping again.

About an hour later, the driver of a Number 26 bus driving through Shoreditch, just east of the center, reported hearing a loud bang on the top deck of the vehicle followed by a pall of smoke.

Fearing the worst—14 people died when a Number 30 bus was blown up on July 7—driver Mark Maybanks ventured to the top deck and found a small black rucksack, which he presumed was the bomb.

"I've never been so frightened as when I went up the stairs. After what happened earlier this month I didn't know what I would find," he was quoted as saying by the Sun newspaper.

According to a series of newspaper reports, police have recovered all four rucksack bombs, giving them a potentially huge boost in tracking down the perpetrators, as well perhaps as those who helped the four British Muslim suicide bombers who died in the July 7 attacks. *AFP*

Ping's 'Tsona' cites P8.3-B 'bridges to nowhere'

From page A1

plaint to be filed against Ms Arroyo.

"There's a potential plunder case here waiting to be filed," Lacson said.

Lacson said that while he still supports constitutional succession for Ms Arroyo, he would back military intervention when her refusal to resign leads to chaos in the streets.

"Well, once the situation becomes chaotic in the countryside and streets and there is a danger of street fighting even between two opposing groups, then I think it is incumbent, it is the mandate of the AFP and PNP to intervene and protect the people in the streets," Lacson said.

Bridge program

Lacson, a Philippine Military Academy graduate and former national police chief, claimed there was widespread disenchantment and growing agitation within the military.

Accusing Ms Arroyo of institutionalizing corruption, Lacson said several such unfinished bridges were part of the President's Bridge Program and cost the taxpayers P8.3 billion. He said Sinag Foundation, an anti-corruption group led by his ally former Rep. Carlos Padilla, was intrigued by the huge cost and conducted an investigation.

"The results will make you so angry you'd want to throw the people behind it from the world's highest bridge. But then again, maybe resignation will do," Lacson said.

He said the Department of Budget and Management released the checks for seven bailey bridges to the Department of Public Works and Highways on April 2004 or a month before the election.

Lacson said that in an apparent rush to release the funds, the checks had uniform amounts for six or seven bridges whether they be 30 meters or 50 meters long.

"Long bridge, short bridge, unfinished bridge—all of them in different locations. But each one cost the same: P16,852,889.08," Lacson said.

"Such sloppy project, hidden in the remotest areas, rushed during the 2004 election campaign and costing P8.3 billion, can only mean fat commissions," he said.

In a statement, the Department of Public Works and Highways, however, denied any irregularities in the President's Bridge Program.

"There is nothing irregular or alarming about the program or its implementation, as obviously pictured by Senator Lacson," the DPWH said, adding that the program is UK-assisted and is being monitored closely by the British government.

It said the PBP has spanned three administrations from Presidents Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo. The P8.3 billion, it said, refers to the total cost of the ZSOPAD bridges programmed from Estrada to December 2005 and that it was not true the funds were spent only during the 2004 May elections.

The DPWH also said that the bridge mentioned by Lacson was not in Zamboanga Sibugay but in Dumalinao, Bgy. Balonoan, Zamboanga del Sur.

Misinformed

"It is not leading nowhere but somewhere to five barangays, namely Tinah, Kalingayan, Quatro, Bagah and Upper Dumalinao, which can be made productive. Again, this shows that Senator Lacson has been misinformed," the DPWH said.

It said the bridges do not cost the same and the P16 million was a cost estimate only for the same volume of steel and the same amount of labor used.

In a press conference after his speech, Lacson said some bridges were constructed on deadends and the one in a ricefield was used as a shelter for cows and carabaos.

"The checks were all released on April 2004 just in time for the May 2004 elections. It's clear that they have nowhere to put the bridges but they still went ahead to collect the money. This is really infuriating, hair-raising. Our people are going hungry and here they are building bridges that have no use," Lacson said.

Charges to be filed

Lacson said Padilla's group has the paper trail for the anomalous project.

"We have the evidence at hand. We are closely coordinating with the minority group in the House," Lacson said.

He said Padilla would also file charges against DPWH and DBM officials before the Ombudsman next week.

Lacson said the bridges to nowhere were "peanuts" compared to the "Road to Perdition," the P1.1 billion overpriced Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, and other corrupt projects piled up by the Arroyo administration. He cited the P2 billion Road Users Tax reportedly used for Ms Arroyo's campaign.

Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said the same fund was being used to distribute P12 million to P15 million worth of projects for each congressman to vote against Ms Arroyo's impeachment.

Other questionable deals

Lacson also cited the following questionable transactions: the $14 million Impsa bribery deal; the $20-million Piatco extortion deal; the P250 million "misused advertising funds" from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office; the $6-million overpriced AFP-Lockheed deal; the P882 million per kilometer of the Northrail project; and the "jueteng" payolas.

In his Tsona, Lacson painted a grim state of the nation. He said criminals rule, the economy is in tatters, social services are undelivered, corruption has been institutionalized courtesy of Ms Arroyo who has turned the country into the basket case of Asia.

"Mrs. Arroyo has been catastrophic for the country," he said. "Mrs. Arroyo has been caught cheating, stealing and lying but she refuses to be declared out and instead clings with epoxy to the presidency that is not hers," he said.

He said that while 16.5 million Filipinos go hungry every day, the President's son Mikey Arroyo has no hunger problem because his assets grew from zero in 1992 to P76.5 million in 2004.

"Only the Arroyos and their cronies are enjoying life. Up to 1996, her brother-in-law Iggy Arroyo was paying an income tax no more than P8,500. Today he is worth P284.5 million," he said.

Hours after delivering his own Sona, Lacson left for Hong Kong purportedly on a business trip.

The INQUIRER gathered that Lacson was booked on Cathay Pacific Airways flight CX 918 that was scheduled to leave at 5:35 p.m. from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Lacson begged off from any interviews.

Reacting to Lacson's Tsona, Malacañang scoffed at the opposition senator for taking on a job solely assigned to the top official of the land.

"That is the height of presumption," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "There is only one State of the Nation Address and that is delivered by the President of the Philippines," he added.

Aside from Lacson, the United Opposition is also preparing its own Sona.

"The (UNO) speech is already being prepared by our policy-making body," San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said in a phone interview.

The group is still discussing who among its leaders would deliver the speech.

The counter-Sona will be delivered on Monday afternoon, the same time President Arroyo will deliver her own Sona. *With reports from AP and Nikko Dizon*

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V-Bar slay suspect faces raps

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) yesterday recommended the indictment for homicide of the confessed gunman in a shooting incident outside a Makati bar last month which claimed the life of budding television director Louis Santiago.

Oliver Jameiro, 32, was also found liable for injuring responding policeman Senior Insp. Merquiodi Bodanio, whose right arm was fractured when he was hit by one of the gunman's shots.

The resolution, signed by State Prosecutors Bernardo Parico and Misael Ladaga, recommended Jameiro's indictment for homicide, for Santiago's death, and direct assault with frustrated homicide, for the injuries Bodanio sustained.

"We find probable cause to indict Jameiro. With the positive identification of witnesses, as well as his extrajudicial admission, there is strong evidence that he shot both Santiago and Bodanio," said the resolution.

After he gave up to authorities on July 3 following a massive manhunt by police and agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, Jameiro admitted that he had randomly fired shots in the midst of a brawl around 4:30 a.m. on June 8, outside the Venezia Bar (V-Bar) in Ayala Center, Makati City.

Jameiro said he merely did so out of frustration, as he ended up being ganged up on even if he only wanted to pacify two women entangled in a fight, one of whom was an acquaintance.

The DOJ filed the cases through separate criminal information before the Makati Regional Trial Court Office of the Clerk of Court on Thursday afternoon, and also filed a motion to consolidate the two related cases for a singular trial.

The state prosecutors set a total bail for Jameiro at P64,000: P40,000 for the homicide charges, and P24,000 for direct assault and frustrated homicide.

Since his arrest, Jameiro has been under the NBI's custody.

The DOJ resolution also indicted several Jane and John Does, in place of other persons suspected to be involved in the incident, whose liability in the shooting state prosecutors have yet to fully ascertain.

The prosecutors, however, said in the resolution that preliminary investigation would continue on the possible involvement of Gino Castro, Jameiro's friend who was with him at the time of the incident, and Marine Maj. Robert Velasco, the owner of the Glock .357 Jameiro allegedly used in the shooting.

Also under investigation is Charito Angeles, who handed Jameiro the gun at the time of the shooting, based on the suspect's own admission.

Police had also learned that Angeles owned the Toyota Hi-Lux Jameiro used to flee the crime scene.

Kidnap cases on the rise?

By Nancy C. Carvajal

REMNANTS of several kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) groups, who banded together, were allegedly responsible for kidnapping incidents in Valenzuela City, a police official said.

According to the official, the new KFR syndicate had already victimized three Chinese-Filipino businessmen working in various factories. Valenzuela has several industrial parks mostly owned by businessmen of Chinese descent.

The police official said the three incidents were reported to him by a member of the Chinese-Filipino community in the area.

One of the victims, together with his driver, was released after his family reportedly paid a ransom of P1.7 million. In an extortion case, the victim was not detained but was asked to pay an undetermined amount. His abductors took his Pajero and mobile phone with the contact numbers of his family and business associates.

But city police chief Supt. Billy Beltran said the kidnapping cases remained unconfirmed until now. "We are still verifying information that there were kidnapping incidents in the past three weeks," Beltran said.

He said the only incident reported to the police was the attempted kidnapping of two businessmen outside the Cabral Industrial Park at Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City. One of the victims was shot dead by the unidentified suspects, while the other one was injured.

The city police chief also said the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) was also investigating the case.

ERIK ARAZAS

SIMPLE JOYS
Children take turns on a makeshift swing fashioned from rags in Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

Claudine seeks restraining order against mag editor

By DJ Yap

TELEVISION and movie star Claudine Barretto is seeking a restraining order to keep magazine editor Jo-Ann Maglipon at a distance of at least 250 meters from her.

This will supposedly prevent the journalist from violating Barretto's privacy.

The star of the ABS-CBN soap opera "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin" accused Maglipon of "unfair and irresponsible journalism" for publishing allegedly unauthorized photos of her in unguarded moments. Barretto also complained about a series of "one-sided articles" depicting her in a bad light.

She asked the court to order Maglipon, editor of Yes! Magazine, to pay her moral and exemplary damages amounting to P8 million, including lawyer's fees.

Maglipon's lawyer, Sandra Coronel, said they would respond to Barretto's allegations upon receipt of a copy of the complaint that they had not yet seen.

In a civil case for injunction and damages submitted to the Quezon City Hall of Justice yesterday, Barretto cited the September 2004 issue of Yes! which published photographs of the actress, her co-stars and crew members on the set of the defunct soap "Marina," allegedly without prior permission.

The magazine, published by Summit Publishing, also carried photographs of Barretto's fiancé, actor Raymart Santiago, without the latter's permission, she said.

Its sister publication, Hi! Magazine, also ran unauthorized photographs of the actress' adopted daughter, Sabina Natasha, she claimed.

Barretto said there was a "history of strained relations" between her and Maglipon arising from a series of "one-sided" articles the journalist wrote on the death of her former boyfriend Rico Yan in March 2002.

Some captions of the allegedly unauthorized photo spreads cast her in a bad light, Barretto said. She cited the caption of a candid photo of her and Santiago that said it was taken in Batangas on March 16, Yan's death anniversary. Barretto said the place and date were incorrect.

"I now exercise my right to fight back, and in the proper forum," Barretto added.

METROBRIEFS

Advice to helper proves fatal for boss

A STORE helper who accidentally killed his employer whom he mistook for a robber in Sitio 6, Catmon, Malabon City, surrendered to police 10 days after the incident. "I was so full of remorse that I decided to give myself up," said Francisco Majerano, adding that he had failed to recognize his employer Dionisio Aranjuez because it was dark. Aranjuez apparently gave Majerano a gun to scare away robbers who frequently broke into a *sari-sari* store owned by the victim, police said. Investigators said that the store had been robbed several times, prompting Aranjuez to hire Majerano. Police said that Majerano was roused from sleep by noise. Majerano said he fired at someone, not recognizing that it was his employer doing a last-minute inspection of the store. "I was awakened by the sound of footsteps and fired immediately at the man," the suspect said. He added that it was already around 12:30 a.m. and the lights were already off when the victim entered the store. Realizing his mistake, Majerano fled from the scene and hid for 10 days before he was convinced to surrender to the city's chief of police, Supt. Moises Guevarra. The victim, who was hit in the right side of his body, was brought to a hospital by another helper, but died while he was being treated.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Naps banned in Marikina's public places

WANT to take a nap in the great outdoors? Skip this city, then. Public places in Marikina City are not open to those who want to doze off. In a newly passed ordinance, the Marikina City Council banned sleeping in public places in the city at any time. The reason: sleeping on sidewalks and in other public places "creates public menace and poses health and security risks," the ordinance said, without elaborating. The ban will be implemented in the following places: sidewalks, streets, churches, parks, cemeteries, alleys, parking areas, waiting sheds, gymnasiums, playgrounds, basketball courts, government buildings and surroundings, and even undeveloped public open spaces. But there are exemptions: you can take a nap when having a picnic in parks or open spaces, but only from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sleeping inside cemeteries will also be allowed, but only during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Also exempted are people participating in a prayer vigil or any event in public places approved by the government. You can also take a nap in designated parking areas—but only if you are inside your car. Violators shall either be fined P100 or be required to dredge parts of the silted Marikina River for three hours. If the offender is a minor, his parents or guardians will be required to pay the fine or render three hours of community service. Street children, beggars or those mentally disabled who frequent these places will be turned over to the local social welfare and development office. The local police, the city office of public safety and security, barangay watchmen and the city parks and development office will be the implementing agencies of the ordinance.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Don't think victory, Willie

REVILLAME

THE FIGHT is not over for Willie Revillame's accuser. An entertainment editor has asked the Office of the Quezon City Prosecutor to reconsider its decision junking her acts of lasciviousness complaint against the TV and game show host. Ma. Salvacion Asis, an editor of Pilipino Star Ngayon and Pang Masa, filed a motion for reconsideration yesterday, arguing there was prima facie evidence in her complaint against Revillame. Asis accused Revillame of touching her breasts and forcing her to touch his private parts in March 2002, on the way from a visit to his house in Quezon City. The TV host had denied the charges. On June 6, the Quezon City fiscal dismissed Asis' complaint for lack of probable cause, saying there was insufficient evidence that an act of lewdness "using force or intimidation" was committed. But in her motion, Asis noted that Assistant City Prosecutor Corazon Romano "should have conducted a preliminary investigation only and not decide the case on the merits, for if she does, she acts without jurisdiction."

DJ Yap

Special Olympics today at Sta. Lucia

THIRTY-TWO special athletes will compete in the First Special Olympics National Bowling Championships to be held at the Sta. Lucia Bowling Center along Marcos Highway, Cainta, tomorrow and Sunday. The event coincides with the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week and the celebration of the founding of the Special Olympics Movement on July 20,1968, by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late US President John F. Kennedy. Teams from Baguio, Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu, and two teams each from NCR-North and South, will vie for various team- and singles-event honors in the two-day event. The tournament will launch the various preparations of the Special Olympics Philippines for the Shanghai World Special Olympics Summer Games in September 2007.

Prices of medicines to plunge soon

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WITHIN the year or early next year, prices of basic medicines will go down by as much as 75 percent.

The poor and the lower middle class will be the beneficiaries of the low-cost but effective drugs. These medicines are antibiotics, and for hypertension (high blood pressure), asthma, diabetes, high cholesterol and tuberculosis.

I don't want to preempt the government by telling you how it will go about bringing down the prices of medicines. But I can tell you that the government is serious about it.

I had a lunch meeting yesterday with Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan of the government-run Philippine International Trading Corp. of which he is chair and CEO.

Pagdanganan said President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered him to help the country's ailing pharmaceutical industry by allowing them to import raw materials of basic drugs. The raw materials will be sold to local pharmaceutical firms.

Apart from that, I can't tell you the details of what Pagdanganan told me about the government plan to bring down the cost of basic medicines.

* * *

Of course, the multinational drug companies and a big drugstore chain will be up in arms once they read this.

The multinational drug firms and the drugstore chain have formed an alliance to monopolize the medicine market. Since it is a cartel and the small pharmaceutical firms have no means to compete with the alliance, the two entities dictate the prices of medicines.

This axis of evil—to borrow from US President George W. Bush—doesn't even consider the fact that the people in this country who need medicines the most are very poor. They don't care as long as they're able to send doctors abroad to attend medical conventions. These doctors can't help but prescribe the medicines made by multinationals and sold by the drugstore chain because there are no alternative medicines.

The drugstore chain and multinational firms were responsible for destroying generic medicines by waging black propaganda about their effectiveness. As a result, nobody buys generic or no-brand drugs.

One is tempted to say that if one were a dictator, he would have the owners and top officials of the alliance lined up against the wall and shot. Why? Because they're killing the poor people who are sick and need medicines badly.

* * *

Senate President Franklin Drilon may have been fed inaccurate information on the North Luzon Railway Project. Drilon has alleged that the $520-million project, largely financed by the Chinese government, was overpriced and not subjected to public bidding.

The contract for the North Rail project reveals that the actual contract price per kilometer of rail is only P336 million and not P880 million as Drilon claims.

One of the conditions for the grant of the loan is for the Chinese government to designate the prime contractor for the project. That is why there was no public bidding. This is a government-to-government agreement which leaves no room for any irregularity.

Drilon probably got his "facts" from Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, whose words should be taken not with a grain of salt but tons of it.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

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Compiled by L. Mangulat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 German Grand Prix Qualifying; 6:57 p.m.; STAR Sports – Can Shumey take pole position in his home country?

GOLF: Evian Masters; 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.; STAR Sports – Check out the replay of Round Three then witness the Final Round unfold.

CYCLING: Tour de France, Stage 19; 3 p.m.; ESPN – Can Lance Armstrong win his seventh title?

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Bombers break ice, blast Stags

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE JOSE Rizal U Bombers found the perfect opportunity to carve out their first victory in the NCAA basketball tournament and made the most out of it.

Taking advantage of the absence of San Sebastian hotshot Leo Najorda, the Bombers halted the streaking Stags, 67-55, yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Rookies Armando Mañiego and Floyd Dedicatoria carried the Bombers' scoring load with a combined 34 points.

"I'm shocked," said Bombers coach Cris Calilan. "I'm not expecting this win. It was a big factor that Najorda wasn't there. It was a big help that (with his absence), the rest of the (Stags) lost heart."

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
11:30 a.m.—PCU vs Letran (Jrs)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs St. Benilde (Srs)

Najorda served a one-game suspension after getting ejected for a wayward elbow in the Stags' overtime win against the University of Perpetual Help Altas last Monday.

Earlier, Khiel Misa dominated down the stretch to lead the Altas past the San Beda Lions, 68-63.

Misa drilled in 20 points, including a key jumper that lifted the Altas, 64-63, with 1:52 remaining. The junior point guard also scored an uncontested layup that padded their lead to five after a steal in the final three seconds.

The Altas, the 2004 runners-up, stayed at sixth with a 2-5 record.

The Stags wrapped up their first-round campaign at fifth place with a 3-4 record, while the Bombers tied the Lions at the last spot with 1-6 cards.

Dedicatoria triggered a 13-3 rally to close the third period with the Bombers on top by nine points, 46-37, after wiggling out of a 33-34 disadvantage.

The Bombers maintained their strong shooting performance behind Mañiego to move further ahead at 54-42.

Red Vicente tried to stir a Stags comeback, 56-48, but the Bombers responded with a 9-0 tear for a comfortable 17-point advantage, 65-48, with 51 seconds left.

In the first seniors encounter, Perpetual took control for good late in the game only after Misa buried a long jumper, 64-63, at the 1:52 mark. Dean Apor then sank two free throws for a 66-63 cushion, with 11.3 seconds left.

The varsity scores:

First Game

PERPETUAL 68—Misa 20, Balboa 12, Bauzon 12, Joe 11, Refuerzo 6, Reyes 3, Racho 2, Apor 2, Manuel 0, Mendoza 0.

SAN BEDA 63—Tecson 14, Angeles 14, Paterno 8, Menor 8, Gamalinda 5, Aljamal 4, Arbole 4, Taganas 2, Cruz 2, Soriano 2, Tirona 0, Antonio 0, Baldivia 0.

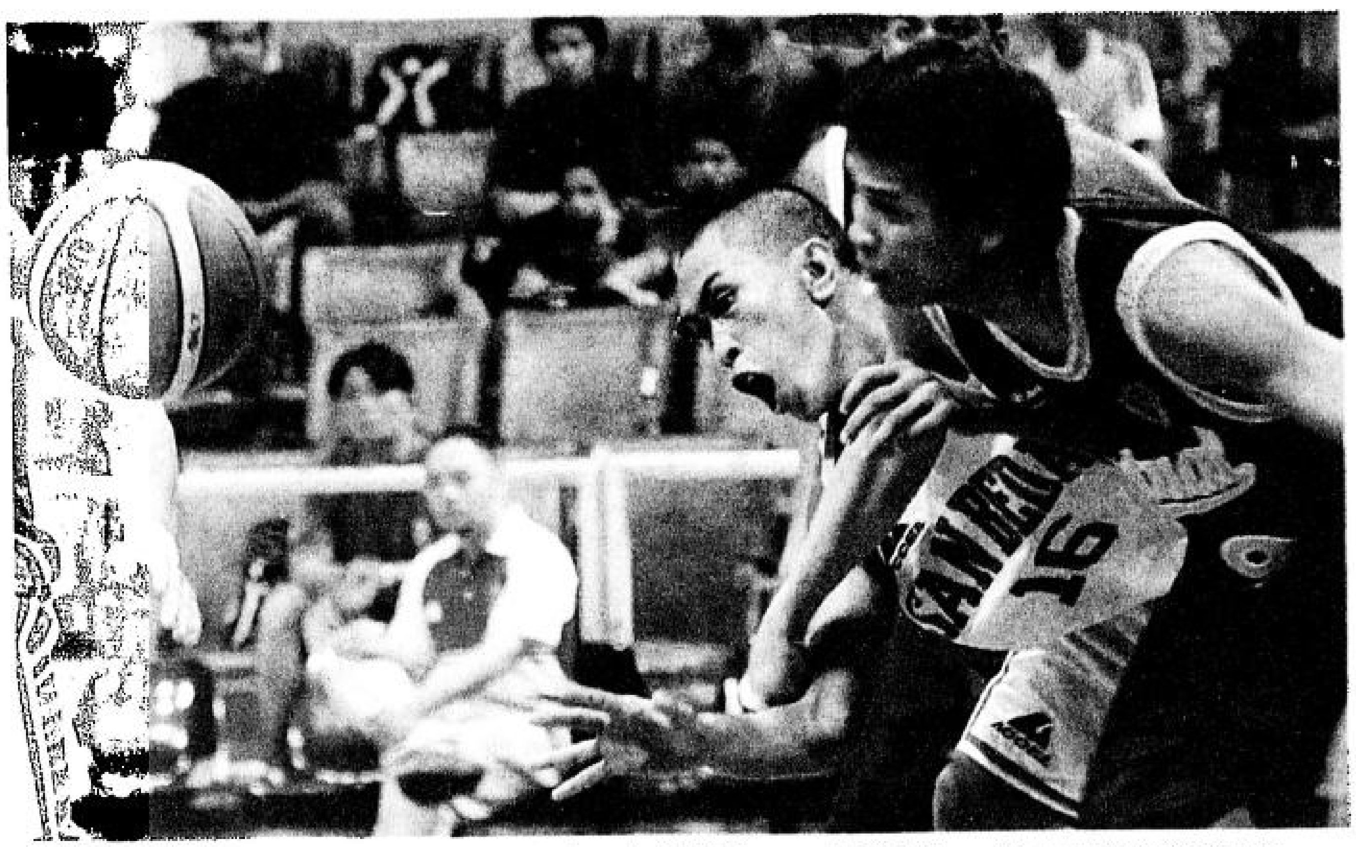
Quarters: 12-13, 35-31, 49-52, 68-63.

Second Game

JRU 67—Mañiego 18, Dedicatoria 16, Domancas 12, Fenequito 7, Natividad 4, Jorge 4, Golena 2, Tala 2, Magtahao 2, San Luis 0, Yuzon 0.

SSC 55—Vicente 22, Aguilar 8, Viray 7, Santos 5, De Leon 4, Delgado 4, Lindaya 3, Ballesteros 2, Tioseco 0, Quiamco 0, Juan 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 13-14, 30-26, 46-37, 67-55.



SAN BEDA'S Riego Gamalinda (right) fights for the loose ball with Perpetual Help's Conrad Bauzon during their game yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome. The Altas proved spunkier in the clutch to down the Lions. RYAN LIM

Hawks stake 73-win run as Naascu opens today

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
12 noon—UM vs CEU
1:30 p.m.—PLP vs New Era
3 p.m.—St. Clare vs Univ. of Makati
4:30 p.m.—STI vs AMACU

UNIVERSITY of Manila stakes its unprecedented four-year unbeaten streak today at the start of the National Athletic Association of Schools Colleges and Universities men's basketball competitions at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Hawks, who hold a record of 73 consecutive victories in the tournament, will be pitted against last year's second placer Centro Escolar University at noon.

Naascu will unveil its 5th season with Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina as keynote speaker.

Lina will also make the ceremonial toss along with Champions' League chair Reynaldo Gamboa, Naascu president Dr. Ernesto Jay Adalem of St. Clare College-Caloocan and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay president Yolanda Cruz.

The opening rites will also include the awarding of the league's founding members and players, presentation of membership plaques to New Era and STI, and the selection of the Mr. and Ms Naascu 2005.

But action kicks off with everybody looking up to the Hawks who have turned the league into their private preserve the past four seasons.

Aside from owning the longest winning streak in local basketball, Hawks coach Ato Tolentino also posted a record of sorts when he nailed the title on the same year he won for Philippine Christian University its first crown in the NCAA.

Other matches today pit the PLP Eagles against the New Era University Hunters at 1:30 p.m. and the St. Clare College Saints against the University of Makati Wizards at 3 p.m. The STi College Olympians battle the AMA Computer University Titans at 4:30 p.m.

Gullas, not Narvasa, top prospect for PBF post

GULLAS

By Musong R. Castillo

BASKETBALL Coaches Association of the Philippines president Chito Narvasa is not interested in the presidency of the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation, but will try to help the body in "any capacity other than president."

Narvasa also pledged to make all the resources of the BCAP available to the PBF, which will hold the election of its first set of officers on Monday afternoon at the Makati Sports Club.

With Narvasa unavailable, Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas appears to be the strongest candidate for the top post of the body that will seek recognition from the Philippine Olympic Committee and take over the reins of the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"I am not interested in any position (in the PBF), especially president," Narvasa told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "But I will be there to help in whichever way I can.

The elections will name the president, senior vice president, vice president for men and women, treasurer and an auditor of the group.

A secretary general will be named by the president with PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad looming as a strong candidate.

Para Games needs ₱40M

WHILE the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee needs at least P1 billion to stage the 23rd edition of the Games in November, the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee requires far less—P40 million—to hold the 3rd Asean Para Games on Dec. 14-21.

So far, Para Games organizers have received modest support from Pfizer Phils., the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Sports Commission but are confident they would be able to raise the needed funds to successfully stage the Games.

"The event is drawing near and preparations are going well," said Papgoc chair Michael Barredo, also the president of the International Blind Sports Federation. "We are confident government and private corporations will help us in our preparations."

Barredo, while admitting that donor fatigue is getting in the way of their efforts to raise the required funding, said they are facing the challenge head-on.

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Big dartfest today at Bayview

MORE than P20,000 in prizes will be up for grabs in a darts tournament today at the Alhambra Room of the Bayview Park Hotel on Roxas Boulevard.

Organized by the Bayview Park Hotel and Team Terton Craft, "Darts Royale" is the first event to be held in a classy venue this year.

"This is our way of elevating the sport of darts to another level. We would like to prepare local darters for the eventuality of them competing abroad where tournaments are held in hotels," said Terton Craft owner Andy Mercado.

GAB special conference for boxers

GAMES and Amusement Board chair Eric Buhain announced yesterday that the GAB will be holding a special conference for the following professional boxers: Joel Avila, Leonardo Pablo, Bernardo dela Pena, Francisco Jaro, Joselito Rivera, Benjie Concepcion, Arex Montalban, and Rico Genon. The conference will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m.

Hidaka TKO's Sultan

PHILIPPINE welterweight king Dondon Sultan was stopped in the seventh round by reigning champ Kazuhiko Hidaka Thursday night in their scheduled 12-round bout for the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation title at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

The bigger and more powerful Hidaka caught Sultan with a series of shots to the face in the neutral corner, stopping the Filipino at the 1:07 mark of the seventh frame.

The three judges scored the bout 59-55 in favor of Hidaka before the fight was stopped by scoring referee Malcolm Bugner of Australia, who waved the fight off as Sultan was on all fours.

"He just wasn't lucky tonight," observed Sultan's manager Sammy Gello-ani in an interview.

It was an exciting warfare for as long as it lasted, but Hidaka's power and heft eventually tolled on Sultan.

"Hidaka was very strong," said trainer Edmund Villamor. *Salven Lagumbay*

Bautista to watch WBO tiff

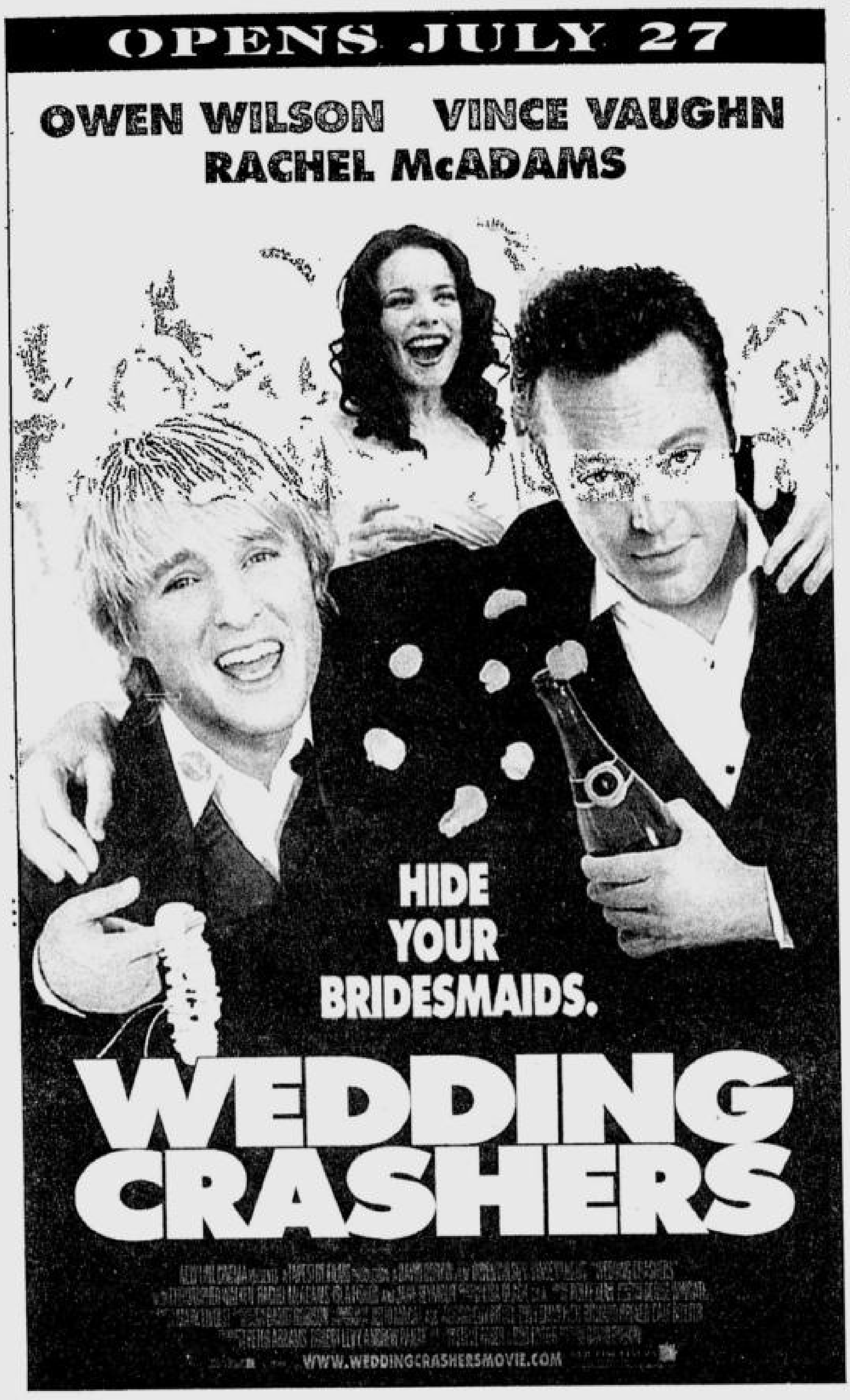
UNDEFEATED World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific bantam boss Rey 'Boom Boom' Bautista may fly to Thailand to be at special ringside for the Aug. 5 showdown between WBO bantam king Ratanachai Sor Vorapin and Mexican challenger Mauricio Martinez at the resort island of Phuket.

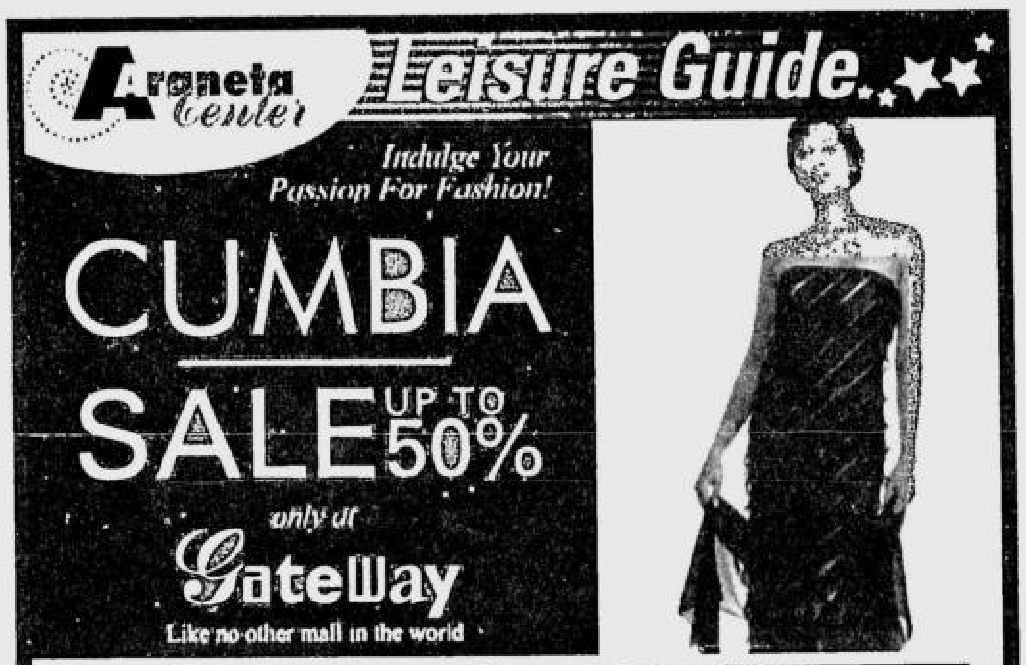
Reports indicated that fight fans are waiting for Bautista's arrival to get to see him up close, as the young champ has gained enough following among the Thais.

Bautista is training his sights on the winner of the Vorapin-Martinez bout.

WBO Asia Pacific chair Leon Panoncillo, in an interview, had confirmed that Bautista is indeed planning to fly to Thailand. He'll be accompanied by his manager Tony Aldeguer, promoter Sammy 'Don King' Gello-ani, and trainer Edito Villamor.

Salven Lagumbay

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❸ FANTASTIC FOUR 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
❹ WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
❺ THE EVIL DEAD 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
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UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 August 25, Thursday 8 pm
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

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AS-PAC BRONCO

RP clouters stun Japan

THE PHILIPPINES opened its campaign with a bang as it stunned Japan, 7-2, yesterday in the 2005 Asia Pacific Zone Bronco Baseball Championship at the Sto. Niño Baseball grounds in Marikina City.

Laurren Vispo pitched a five-hitter and struck out 3 batters in a no-relief job as the Philippines posted its first victory over Japan since trouncing the Japanese eight years ago in Ota, Japan.

"*Iniisip ko po kasi na Pilipinas na ang dinadala namin kaya ginalingan ko talaga* (I'm thinking that we're representing the Philippines now so I did my best)," said the 12-year-old Vispo, who studies in Barangay Sta. Elena but lives in Nangka in this riverside city noted for its world-class shoes.

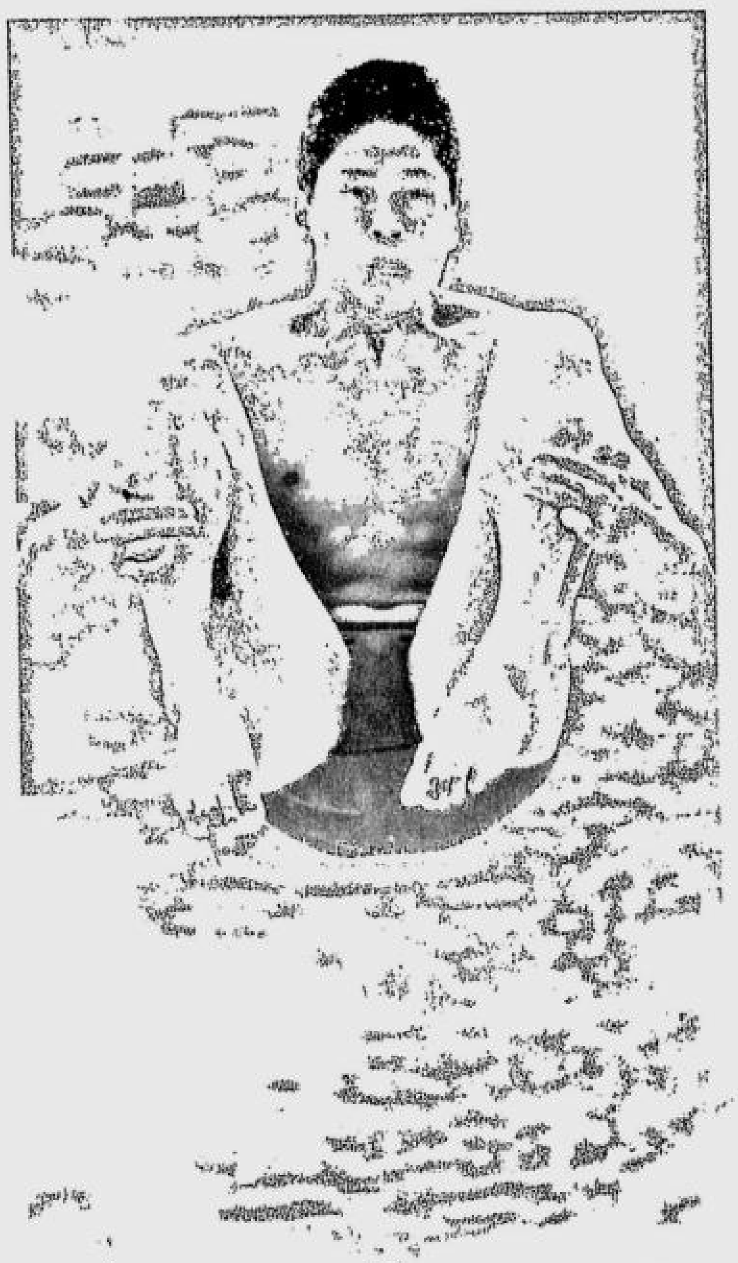
"*Maganda ang* pitching *niya at mukhang hindi siya napagod* (His pitching was good and it seems he did not get tired)," said RP team coach Lito Ordonez, also the commissioner of the softball and baseball youth program in this city.

Marikina Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando, organizing Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation president Boy Tingzon and Asia's founding tot baseball president Rodolfo Tingzon Sr. graced the opening of the four-day tournament which stakes a berth in the Bronco Baseball World Series slated Aug. 4-10 in Monterey, California.

Chinese-Taipei, which topped last year's event held in Beijing, China, was playing host Marikina City, a guest team preparing for the Pan Pacific Baseball Games slated from Aug. 12-16 also here, in an exhibition game at presstime yesterday.

The taller, big-hitting Taiwanese are gearing up for a much-awaited duel against the Filipinos at 10 a.m. today in what could be a preview of the championship.

"This is a big win for us, it's very inspiring," said Tingzon.



GETTING READY
Victor Paguia of the Philippines performs in the Men's 10-meter Springboard Diving competition on Thursday at the XI FINA World Championships in Montreal, Canada. Paguia hopes to use his stint here as preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in November. AFP

Dance Sport Council midyear event today

AS PART of its preparation for this year's Southeast Asian Games, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will be conducting a midyear ranking and competitions at the PhilSports Arena today.

Some 200 dance athletes are competing in both Latin American and Modern Standard disciplines, said DSCP president Becky Garcia, who added that five international licensed adjudicators will act as judges in the event backed by San Miguel Corp., Petron, BPI-Mastercard, BMW Philippines, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Gulf Air, Water Zone, Savannah Moon, Joey 92.3, Rene Barbier Wines and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Seeing action are SEA Games athletes (Latin discipline) Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora, John Erolle Melencio and Dearlie Gerodias, Richard Obong and Jenevieve Camacho, and Melvin de la Serna and Vangilyn Cenina; (standard discipline) Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador; Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Jerswin and Anne Poloyapoy, Edgardo Borromeo and Ana Dulce Yango; PSA awardees Reynato Rener Mercado and Judity Anne Melencio, and the pair of Brian Joseph and Karla Ocana.

For details, call Anna Faye Lee at 6350116.

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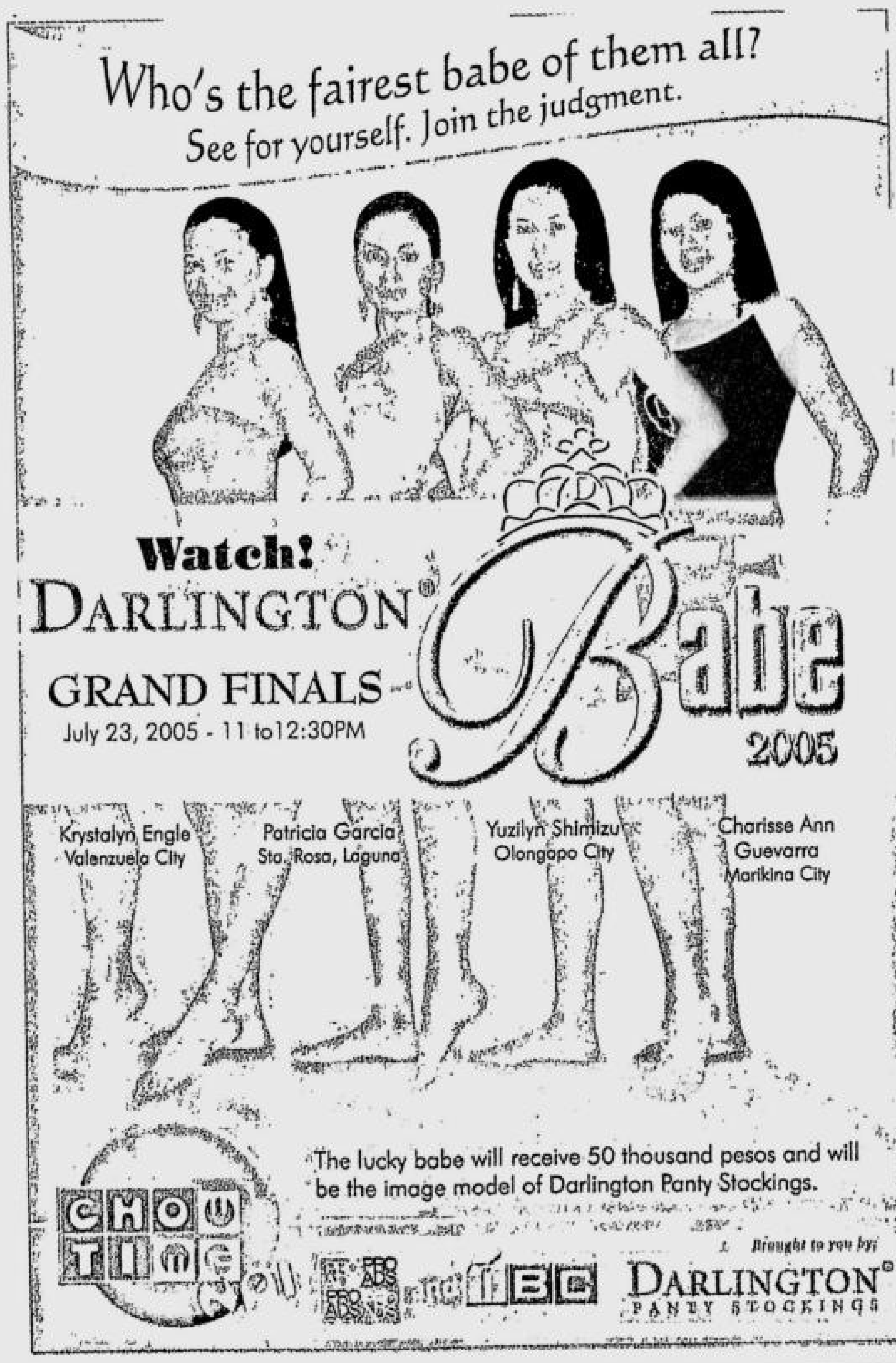
UP Open Golf Championship slated July 29

THE UP Open 2005 Golf Championship tees off at 7 a.m. on July 29 at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo, Rizal. GMA Network is the lead sponsor with Araneta Center as major sponsor. Lending support are Ayala Land, Smart Communications, Philippine Star, Cocolife, Air 2100, Hizon Laboratories, Arms Corp. of the Phils., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, RC Cola/Tony Panajon, BAPA '70, Beta Sigma Diliman '61, Sen. Manuel Villar/Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar and Sigiuon Reyna Montecillo and Ongsiako Law Firm. Early donor is Ping Ping Lechon. The special event is held yearly to raise money for the Students Fund of the UP Alumni Association, offering assistance to deserving UP students in the form of free tuition, lodging, food and book allowances.



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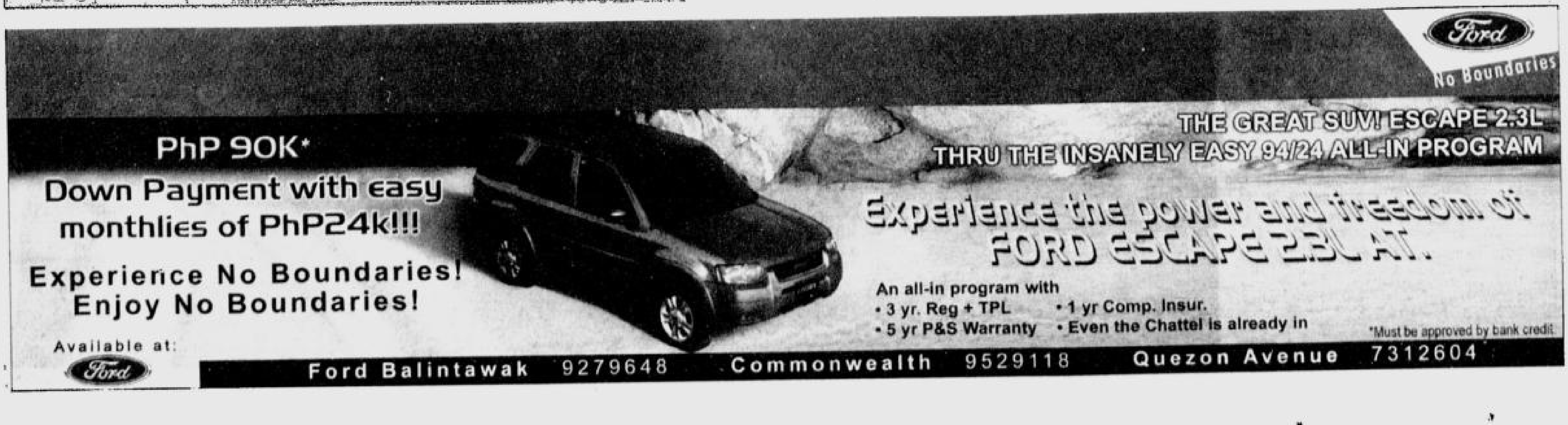

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Armstrong smells victory

MENDE, France—Lance Armstrong feels so sure of victory in the Tour de France, so ready for retirement, that he doesn't want to get off his bike. Not now, with the end this tantalizingly close.

"Why don't we just not stop? Let's just keep riding, get it over with," Armstrong said when teammate George Hincapie, pedaling alongside during Thursday's 18th stage, reminded him that only three days and 353.5 kilometers (219.6 miles) remained until the Champ-Elysees in Paris.

"That would be better for me," the six-time champion said. "The sooner it's done, the better."

Armstrong, who is retiring at the end of the race, defended his large lead in Thursday's stage, won by Marcos Serrano of Spain.

Armstrong finished more than 11 minutes back in a group of four with Ivan Basso of Italy, Jan Ullrich of Germany and Cadel Evans of Australia. They broke away from other riders with bursts of speed up a brutal ascent at the finish in Mende, in south-central France.

Armstrong's lead over Basso remained unchanged at 2 minutes, 46 seconds. Third-placed Mickael Rasmussen was slower up the last climb and slipped to 3:46 behind Armstrong.

Ullrich is still fourth, 5:58 behind Armstrong, but closed on Rasmussen. The 1997 Tour winner improved his chances of overtaking the Dane in the final time trial on Saturday.

Ullrich, who has three second-place finishes behind Armstrong, said: "We tried everything. But Lance is so strong, just like last year. We tried to attack him, but you have to accept he is the strongest."

Armstrong came into this Tour as hungry and as well-prepared as ever, quickly silencing doubters who questioned his will and ability to win again at age 33. He distanced his rivals from the opening time trial and then built on his lead in the mountains.

"It's been smooth, smoother than I expected," said Armstrong. "There's never really been a true panic within the team, within myself."

Asked how he has managed to stay so focused for seven years, he replied: "A love for the event and a hatred for losing the event.

Armstrong says spending time with his children will be his first priority upon retirement.

Serrano was one of 10 riders who broke away from the main pack containing Armstrong early in the 189-km (117-mile) route from Albi. He shook off the remaining members of his group on the last ascent, scything through the dense crowds that flooded onto the road and won a stage for the first time in his career.

He finished in 4 hours, 37 minutes, 36 seconds. Armstrong, Basso, Ullrich and Evans were 11:18 back. Rasmussen was 37 seconds behind them.

Because the riders ahead were not a threat to his overall lead, Armstrong and other racers in the main pack were able to relax a little on the trek that took them under the world's tallest bridge, near Millau.

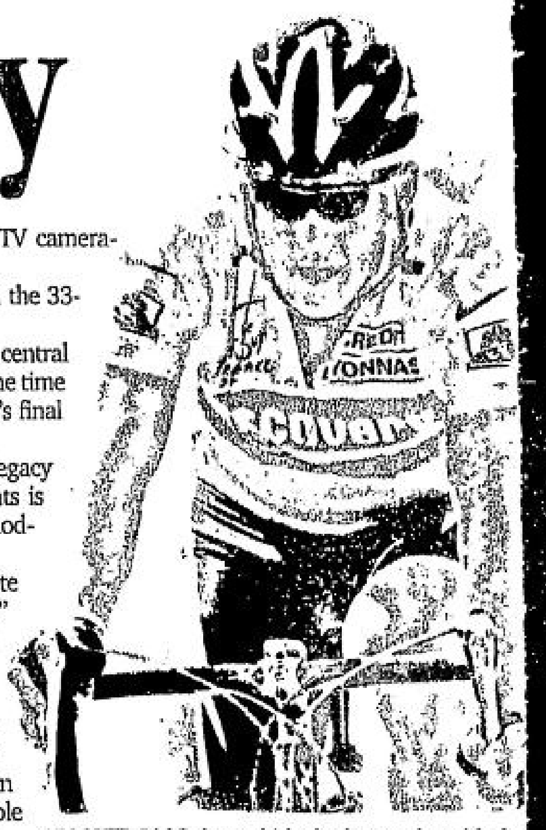
Armstrong again joked with TV cameramen following on motorcycles.

"I'm OK for an old man," said the 33-year-old.

Another hilly route through central France awaits on Friday before the time trial on Saturday before Sunday's final ride into Paris.

Armstrong is aware that his legacy as one of cycling's all-time greats is secure. However, he remains modest about his achievements.

"An individual can never dictate their legacy. That's not my job," he said. "Whatever the people decide it is, it is. I'm a kid from Texas who learned how to ride fast and overcome a life-threatening illness to come back and win the hardest sporting event in the world. I'll let other people write on the tombstone." *AP*



ARMSTRONG: Just a kid who learned to ride fas

PAULA Creamer follows her drive on No. 4. AFP

Creamer, Kim share Evian lead

EVIAN, France—Annika Sorenstam shot a 6-under 66 to climb into contention at the Evian Masters, two strokes behind second-round leaders Paula Creamer and Christina Kim on Thursday.

The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales rebounded from an opening day 77 with a two-under 70 but was still 11 strokes off the lead at the halfway mark of the tournament.

Americans Creamer and Kim each shot 4-under 68s and shared the lead at 8-under 136. Sorenstam stood alone in second at 6 under, with Laura Davies and Carin Koch another stroke back.

Davies shot 70 and Koch carded 73. Lorena Ochoa had a 69 and Karrie Webb shot 70, putting them four strokes behind.

Hawaiian 15-year-old Michelle Wie, who opened with a 75, shot 70 to trail the leaders by nine. She has a 1-over 145 after two rounds.

Like Wie, the 18-year-old Creamer is another talented teenager. She holed seven birdies and had three bogeys. The 21-year-old Kim, who has played every tournament this season, had five birdies and dropped just one shot.

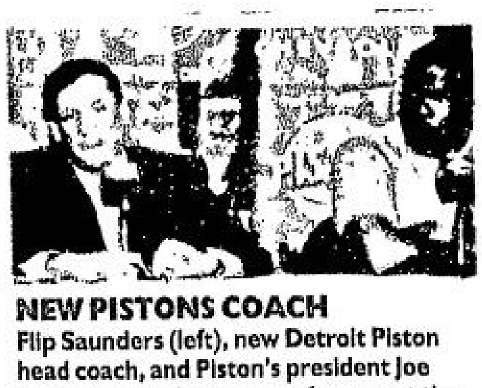
Both are hoping to qualify for the US Solheim Cup squad, which will be named on Aug. 28. Ten players qualify on points, and two are captain's picks.

Kim is fifth in the points standings and Creamer is 13th.

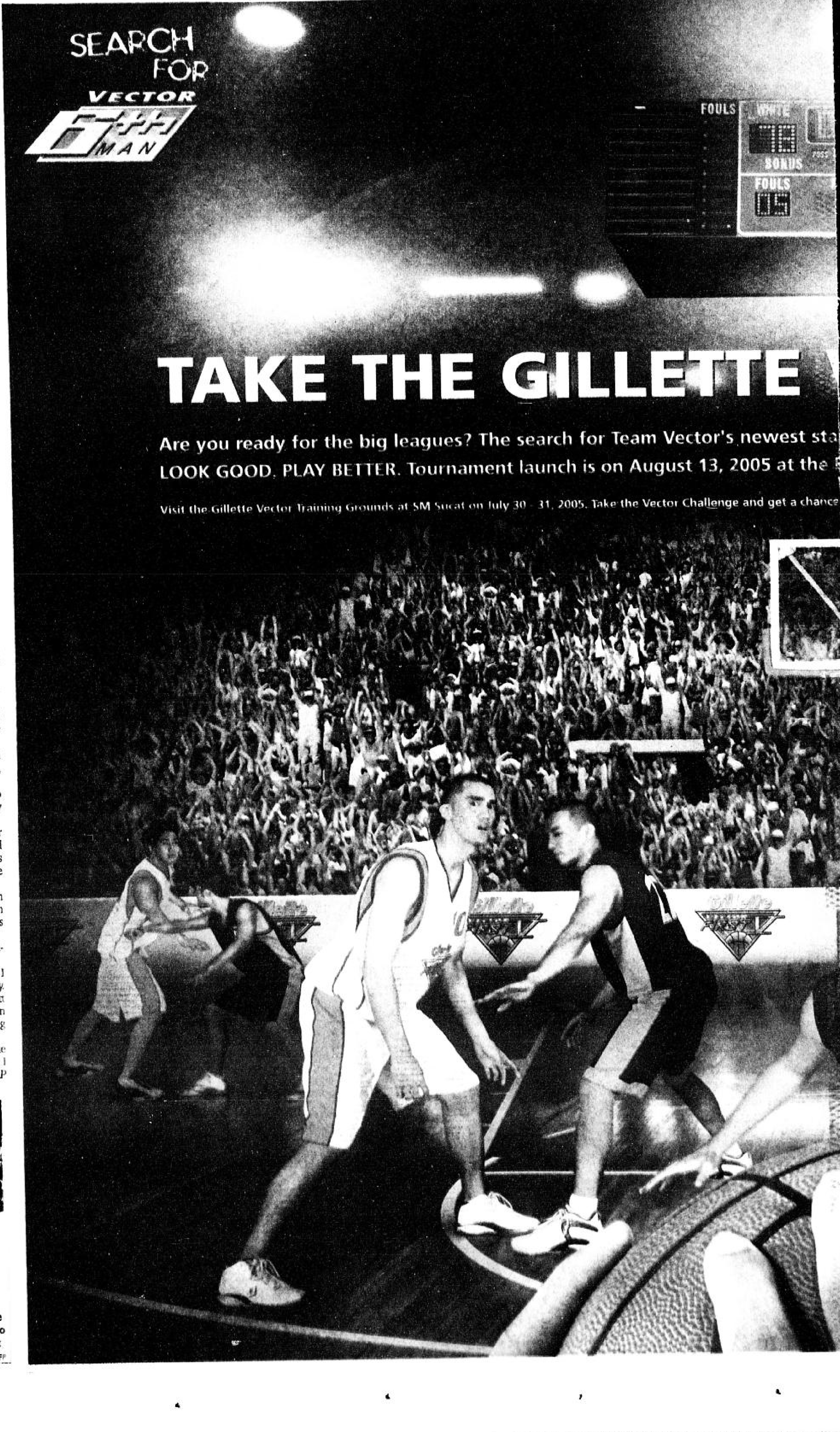
"I've wanted to be in the Solheim from before I hit my first ball as a pro," Creamer said Thursday.

Sorenstam had seven birdies—her longest putt was 11 feet—and dropped only one shot when she was caught between clubs and hit a pitching wedge into a greenside bunker at the 10th.

"Yesterday I walked off feeling I'd left some shots out there," Sorenstam said. "Today I felt I converted most of them." *AP*



NEW PISTONS COACH
Flip Saunders (left), new Detroit Piston head coach, and Piston's president Joe Dumars attend a press conference at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Saunders, who had a 411-326 record as coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves, was hired yesterday by the Pistons to replace coach Larry Brown, who is reportedly being lured by the New York Knicks to handle their team. AFP



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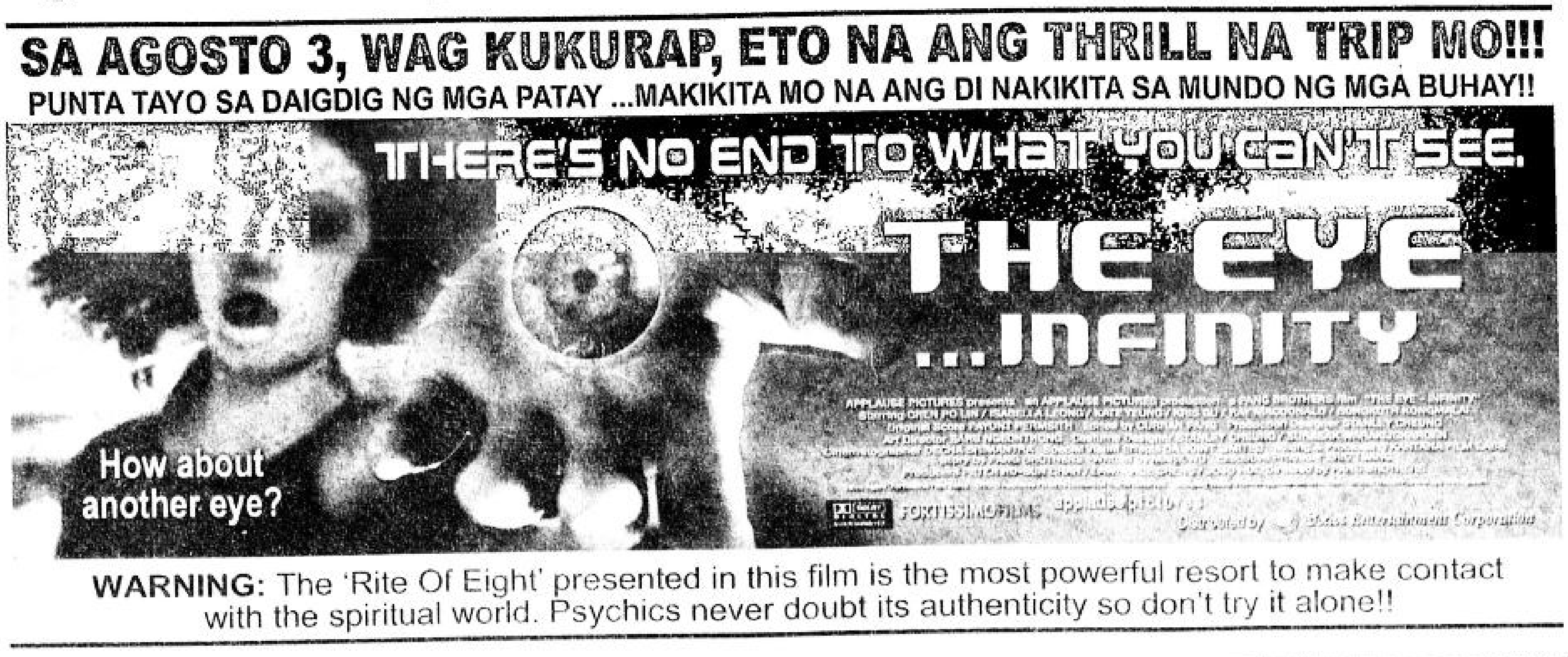
Agassi, four past champs lead US Open field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WHITE PLAINS, New York—Two-time US Open winner Andre Agassi was among five past champions on the tournament entry list released Thursday.

The 35-year-old Agassi hasn't played since losing in the first round of the French Open in May. Bothered by a lower back injury, the owner of eight Grand Slam titles pulled out of this week's hard-court tournament in Indianapolis.

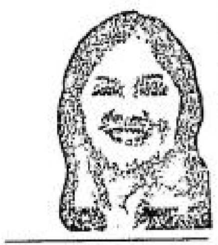
Defending champion Roger Federer, Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin are the other US Open winners in the field for the year's last major, which starts Aug. 29. They are all ranked in the top five; Agassi is No. 6.

The top 100 men in the current ATP Tour rankings were on the official entry list, along with four men who have protected rankings. Sixteen players will be added to the field in qualifying, and eight will receive wild cards.

Seedings will be based on the Aug. 22 rankings, and the draw will be Aug. 24. *AP*

Crucial PBA meeting set

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

THE CALL came just as I was leaving for a lunch meeting with a PBA governor yesterday. It was PBA press corps President Noli Cortez, asking if I had heard anything about a special board meeting slated next week.

"They say there will be a vote of no confidence in that meeting, but I need one more confirmation from a governor to be sure," Noli said.

By three o'clock of the same day, I had the info Noli wanted. "Affirmative," I told him. There will be a board meeting next week, but the governors are still awaiting word from Chair Ely Capacio who is currently in Australia, as to the exact date and venue. They didn't want to call it a vote of no confidence. They said it was going to be a performance evaluation of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala who, understandably, was not invited to the meeting.

***

For sure there will be some surprises when the 2004-05 PBA season unfolds this October, especially in the coaching scene.

The musical chairs have started. Former FedEx head coach Bong Ramos has accepted a one-rank demotion and will sit on the Talk 'N Text bench as Joel Banal's assistant. Negotiations are also ongoing to sign up veteran coach Derick Pumaren as consultant.

***

A PBA coach facing dire prospects this coming season was in a quandary. He said he had two offers from two different PBA ballclubs—one as an assistant coach, the other as head coach.

Of course he'd rather accept the head-coaching job, except that the ballclub offered him only half of the amount he is currently receiving. If my guess is correct, this coach has lost his chance with the team who needed an assistant coach, because Bong Ramos was already hired.

He could send his resumé to FedEx, where the coaching slot is currently vacant following the resignation of Ramos.

However, from what I heard, Express manager and governor Lito Alvarez plans to give one of his assistants a break. The coaching reins could therefore be handed over to either Robert Sison or Bo Perasol.

I tried to get a short list of prospective replacements from Lito A., but has gotten no response so far.

It seems to be common knowledge that Binky Favis will have his turn to try his hand at coaching. Unconfirmed reports have it that he is taking over from Eric Altamirano, who will resume his old post with the San Miguel All-Star squad.

Binky will be the third interim coach of Coke since Chot Reyes left to concentrate on the Philippine national team. Altamirano succeeded Biboy Ravanes.

***

The Philippine Basketball Federation will hold its election of officers and 15 members of the board of trustees on Monday, July 25, at the Makati Sports Club.

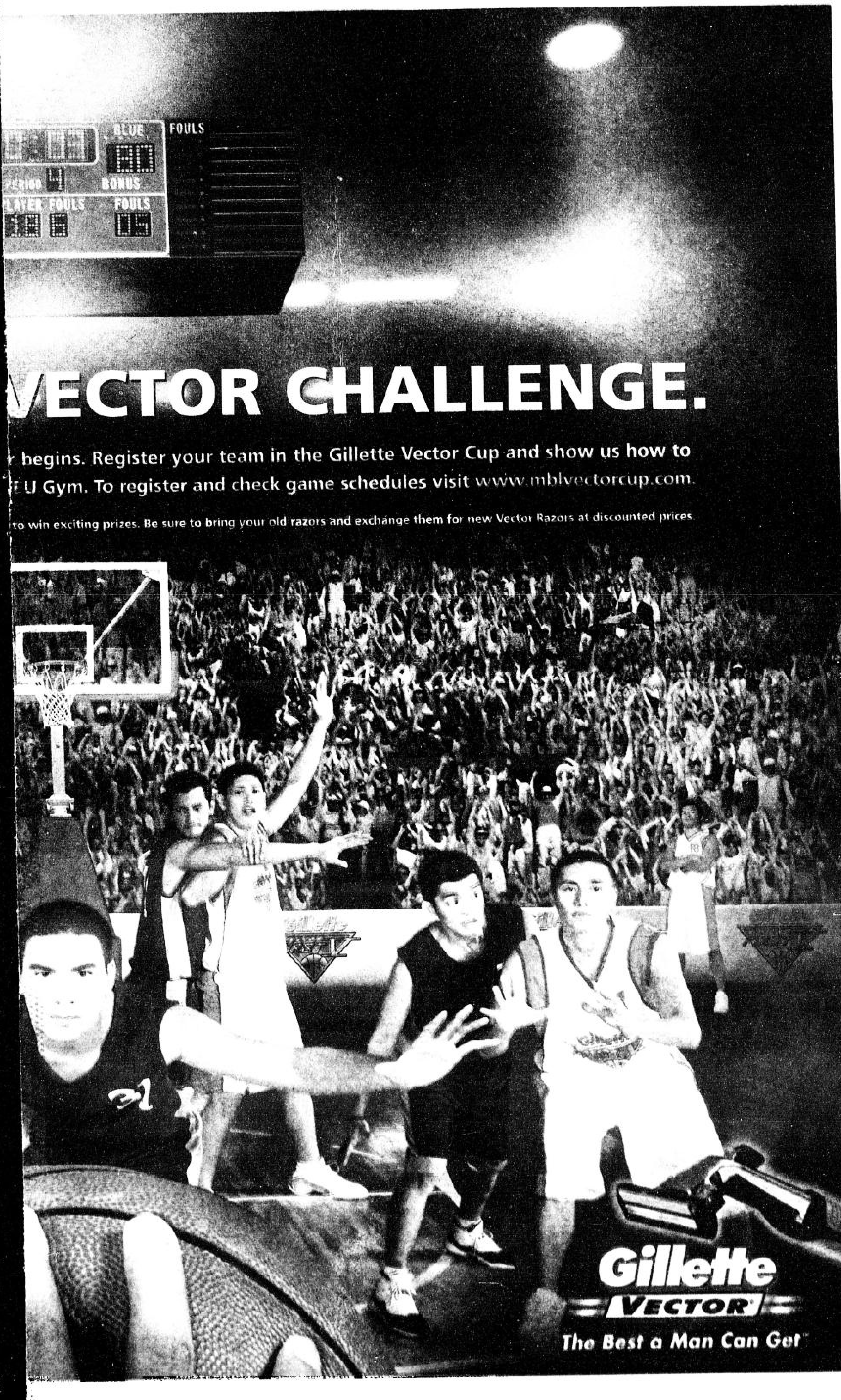
Reports have it that the POC group is grooming Cebu's Ed Gullas for the presidency and, this time, they are bound to succeed since the ranks of the stakeholders have been depleted and interim secretary general Moying Martelino has personally handpicked the regional directors.

Through its president Chito Narvasa, the BCAP yesterday withdrew its active participation from the Philippine Basketball Federation, following the path that the PBA had earlier taken.

"My desire is to unite, not divide my association," said Narvasa in his letter to the PBF.

"This, however, does not in any way affect my personal support and faith in its members, that they will continue to find a way to unite all parties and direct basketball to new heights never attained by our previous basketball leaders."

While Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado is listed as an incorporator, he will be in the PBF in a personal capacity and not as a representative of the PBA. Buddy won't be able to attend the elections, though. By Monday, he will be on a one-week Alaskan cruise and will be back just before the PBA draft on Aug. 14.



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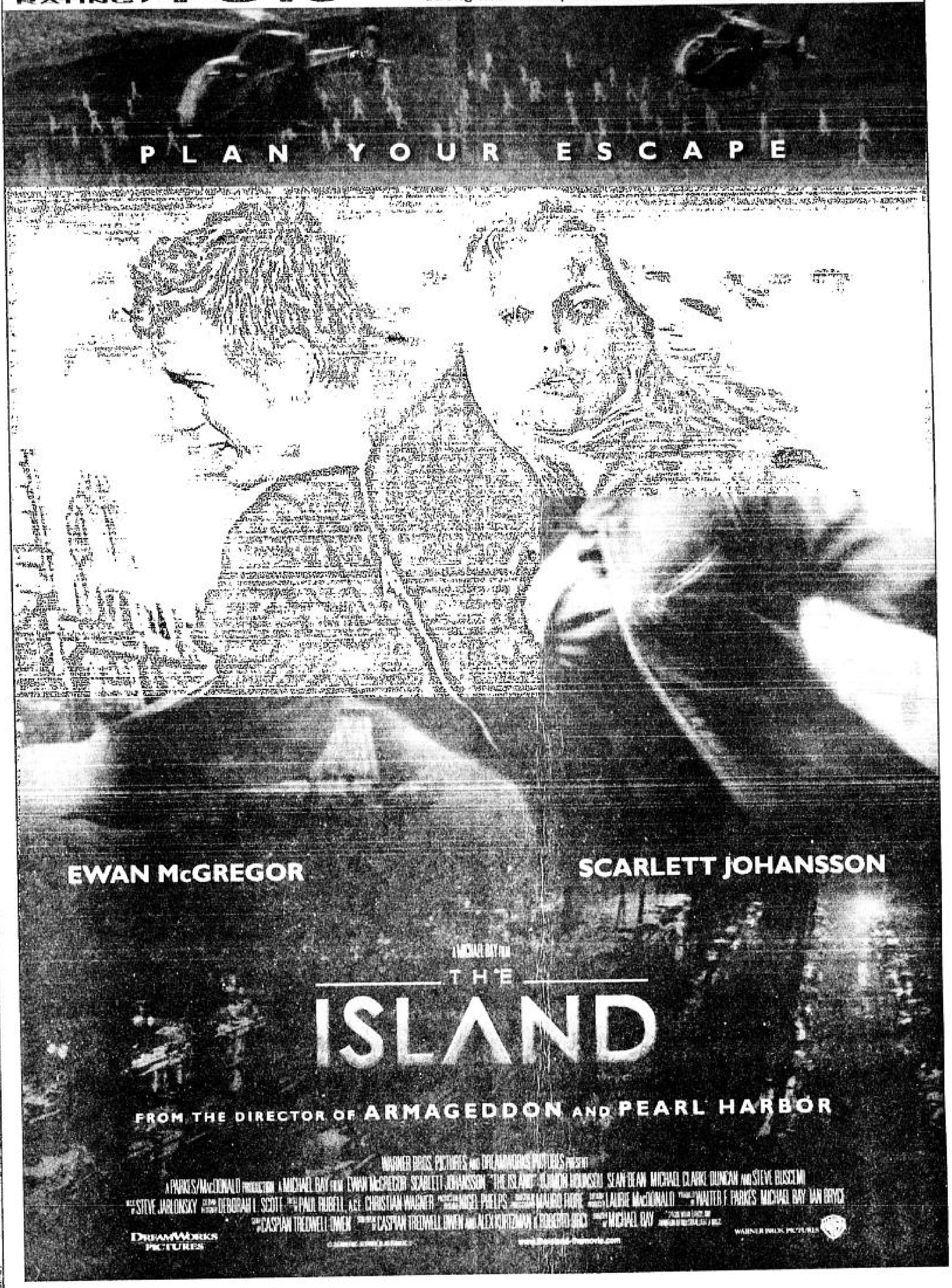
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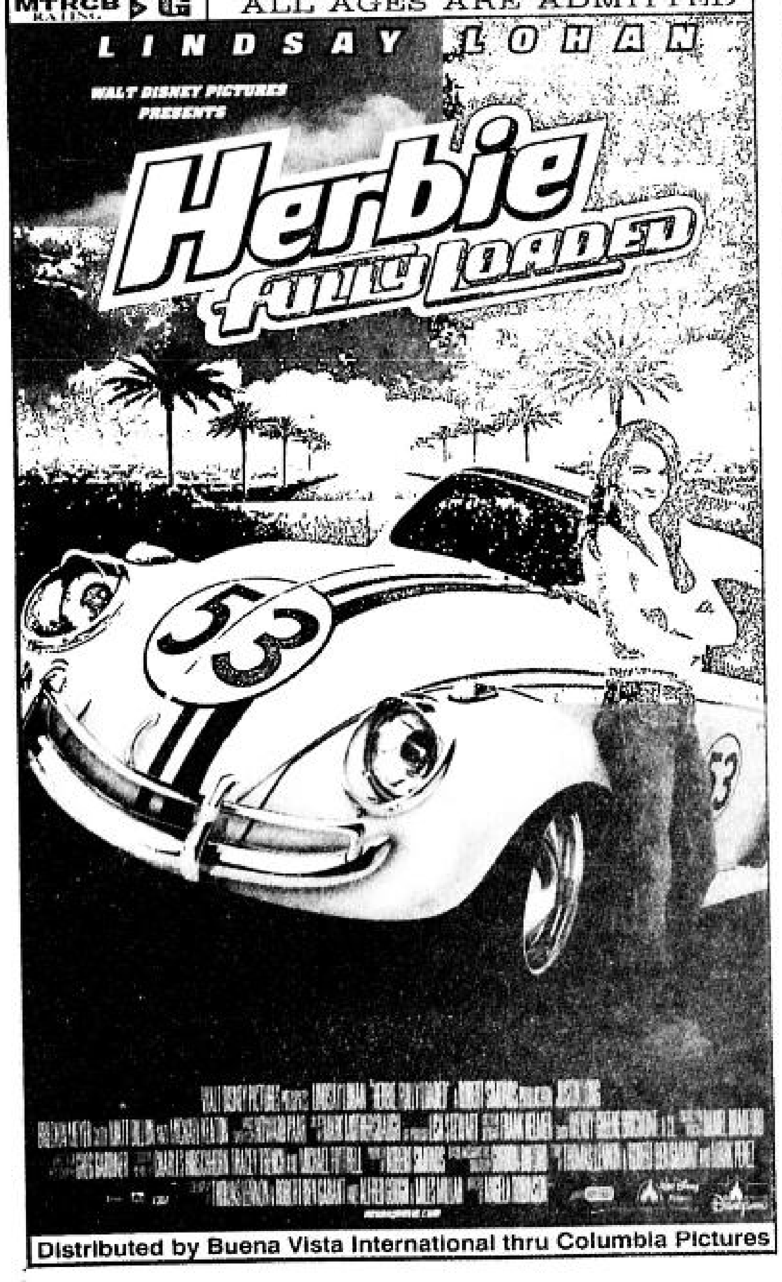
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Crusaders wear down Valencia

ILIGAN CITY—New recruit Dondon Mendoza made an auspicious debut as he scored 15 of his game-high 18 points in the second half to lead the Iligan Crusaders past the Valencia Golden Harvest, 73-67, Thursday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the packed MSU-IIT gym here.

The burly, 6-foot-4 Mendoza took Valencia's 6-foot-7 center Net Cruz to school as he unloaded six straight points in the paint to help Iligan erect a 65-54 lead midway in the payoff period.

The win enabled Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders to level their record at 4-4 in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest dropped to fourth spot in the Southern Conference at 3-5.

"It was a collective effort but I gave special credit to Dondon (Mendoza) for providing us a big lift in his debut," said Iligan coach Billy Reyes.

The Golden Harvest inched to within four, 69-65, on Cruz's post-play with 2:50 left. But Mendoza and playmaker Joseph Roque combined for five straight points to ice the contest.

Dave Sagad and Gerry Cavan gave strong support to Mendoza, scoring 12 points each.

Cruz paced Valencia with 13 points, six boards, two blocks and one steal.

Action continues today with Crusaders hosting the KSK Food Products-backed Parañaque Jets of Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana at 6 p.m. at the MSU-IITgym.

The scores:

ILIGAN 73—Mendoza 19, Sagad 12, Cavan 12, De Guzman 8, Ayodelle 6, Barbosa 5, Torio 4, Dy 3, Reyes 2, Roque 2, Fajardo 0, Baguio 0, Canoy 0, Faustino 0, Oliveros 0.

VALENCIA 67—Cruz 13, Adams 11, Navales 8, Nallon 7, Gragasin 7, Cabili 6, Berami 4, Celix 4, Taligatos 4, Toring 3, Madera 0, Bayron 0, Cesar 0, Clavel 0.

Quarters: 19-18, 41-36, 59-52, 73-67.

Active chess starts

THE SHELL National Youth Active Chess Championships stages its third leg at the People's Gymnasium in Tuguegarao today with close to 500 students and out-of-school youths vying for berths in the national finals.

The top three finishers in both the juniors' (20 years old and below) and kiddies' (14-under) categories after the seven-round Swiss system tournament will advance to the grand finals set Oct. 15-16 at SM North Edsa.

The juniors and kiddies leg champions will also get P5,000 and P4,000, respectively. For details, contact area coordinator Mariano Cabugos at (078) 8442894.

The Tuguegarao leg serves as the third of the eight-stage nationwide series long considered as the main source of chess talents in the countryside.

The Southern Luzon eliminations of the circuit, sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, will be held in Batangas on Aug. 6-7 for the fourth leg.

The event, which has produced the likes of GM Nelson Mariano II and IM Mark Paragua, is backed by Shell Better Mileage gasoline, Accel, Cebu Pacific, McDonald's Philippines, and Shellane in cooperation with SM Supermalls, Gaisano Mall (Davao City) and Lim Ketkai Mall (Cagayan de Oro City).

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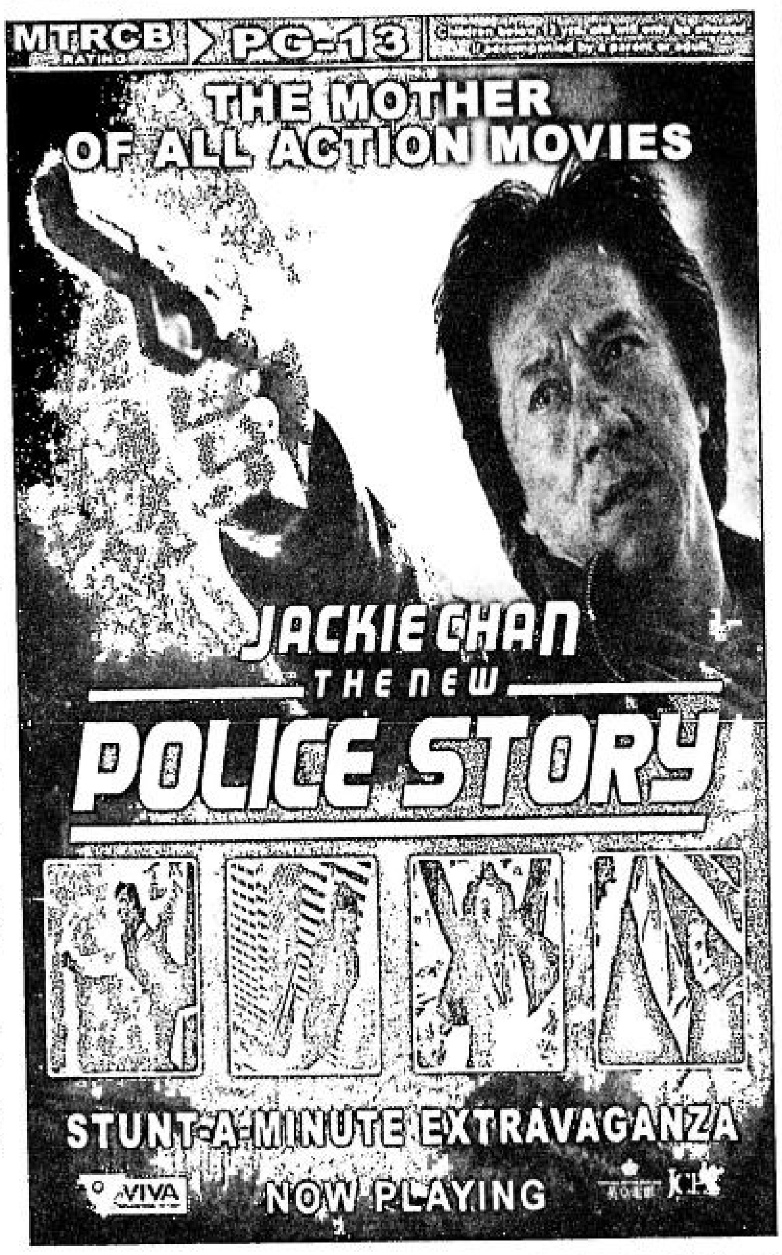

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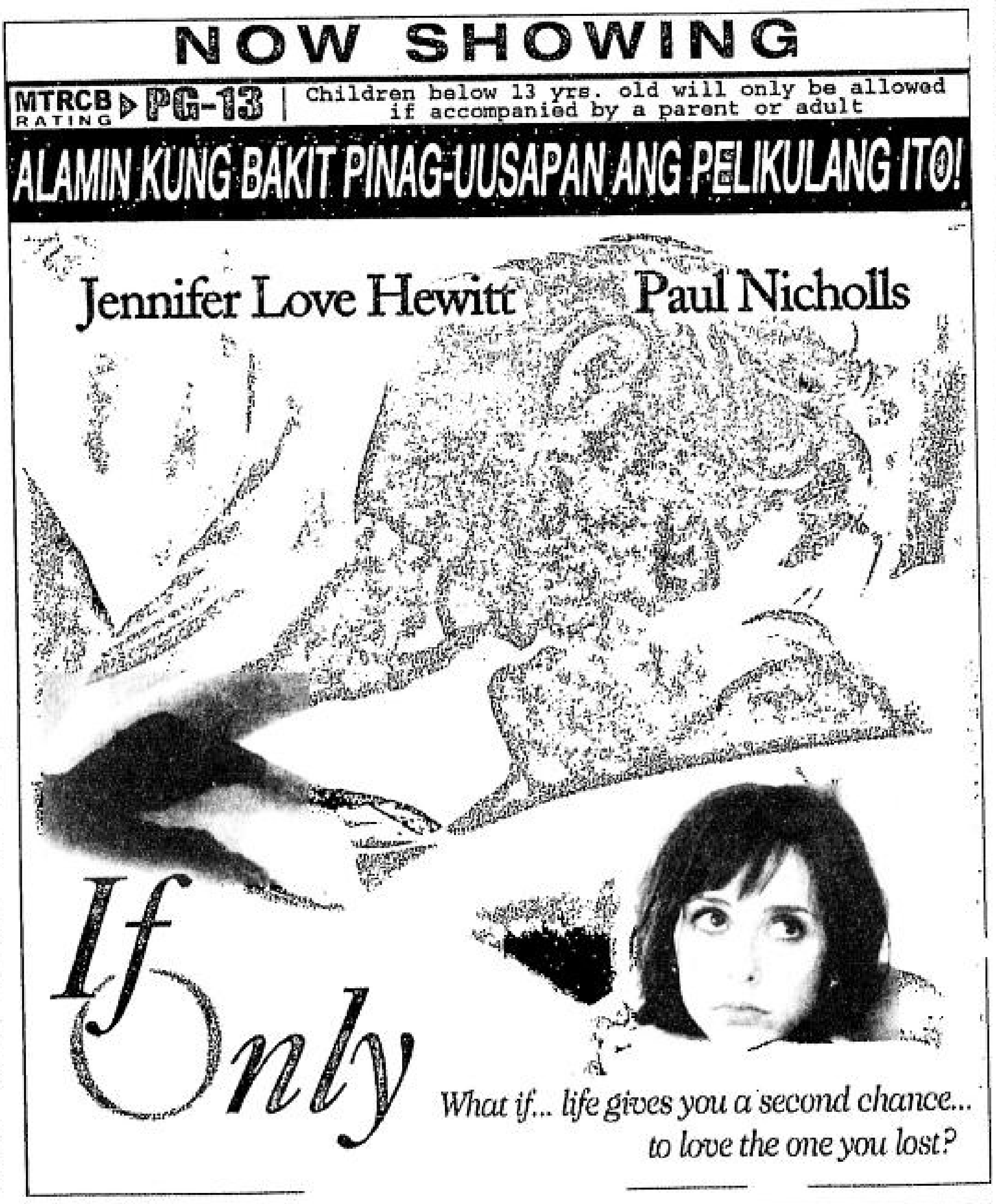

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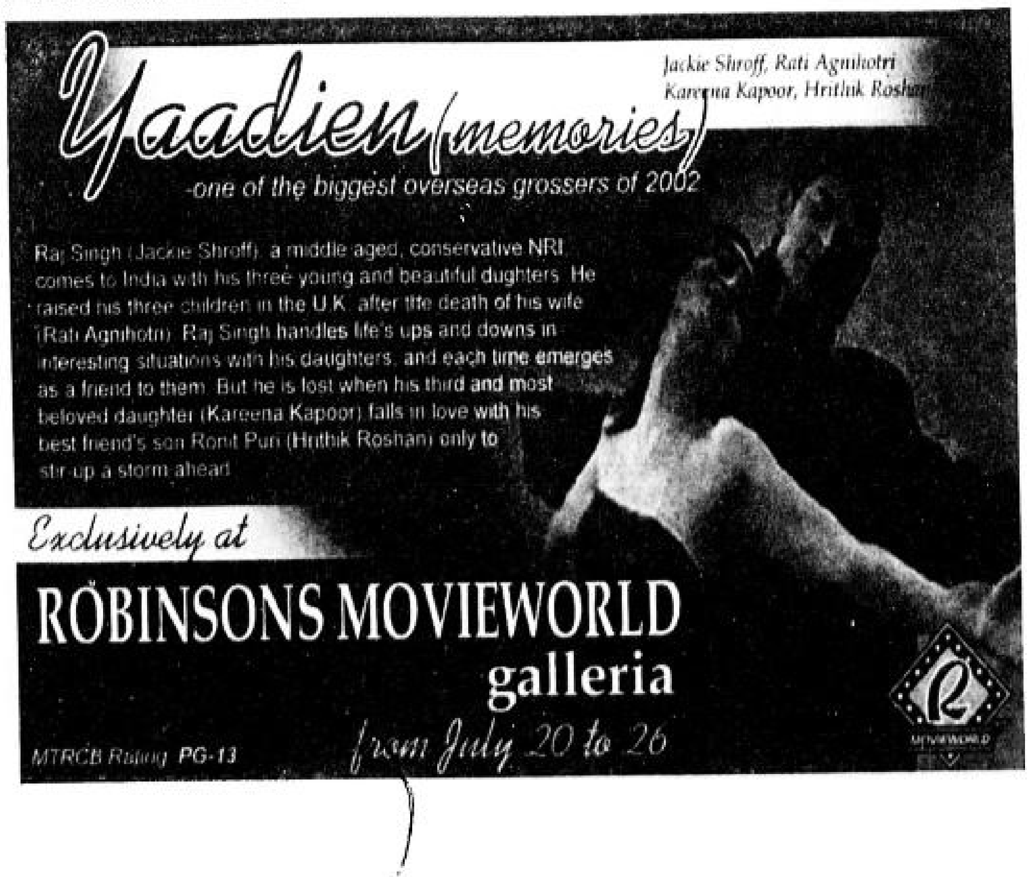

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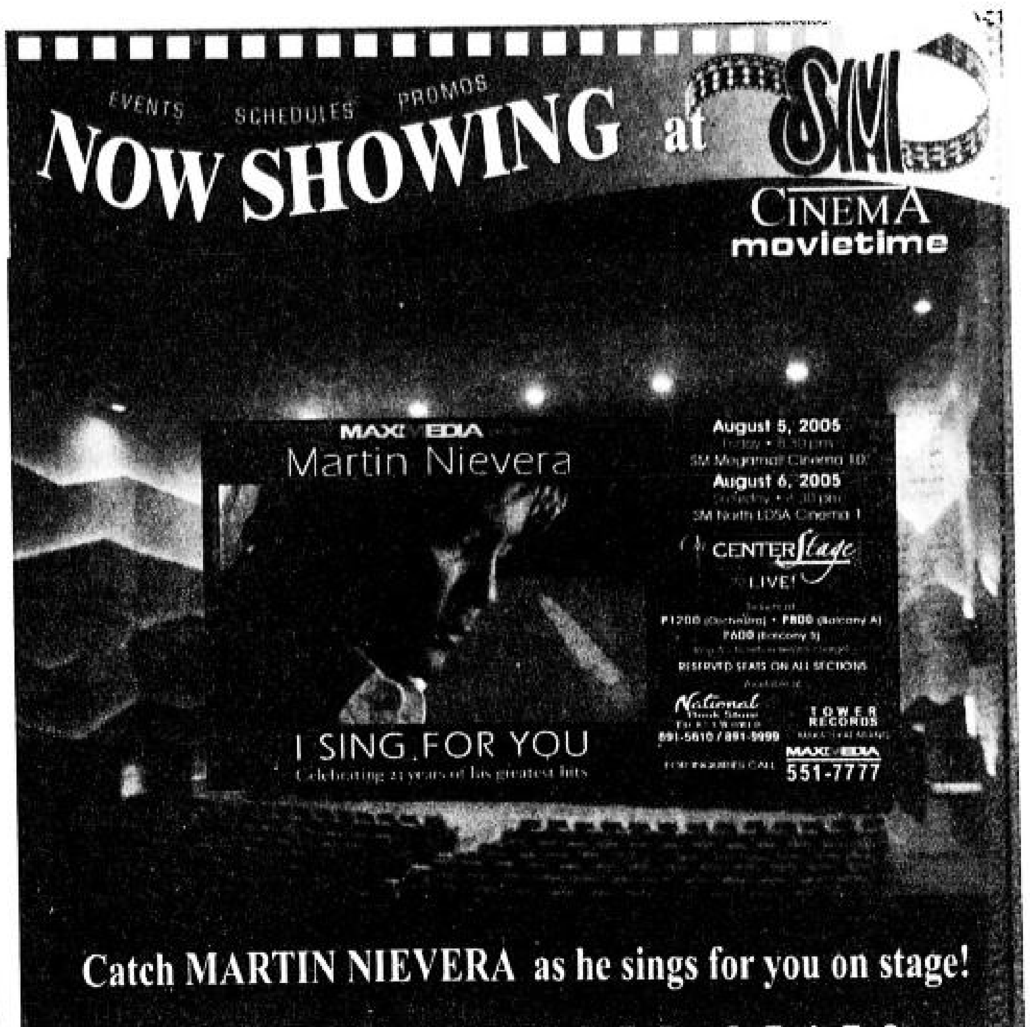

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SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE ISLAND
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 NEW POLICE STORY
10 THE ISLAND
11 EVIL DEAD
12 IF ONLY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 THE ISLAND
3 CREEP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 THE ISLAND
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 BATMAN BEGINS
12 EVIL DEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 IF ONLY
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY MANILA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 THE ISLAND
7 EVIL DEAD
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
10 CREEP
11 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12 IF ONLY

SM CITY STA MESA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 THE ISLAND
4 NEW POLICE STORY
5 THE ISLAND
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
7 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
8 IF ONLY
9 ICE PRINCESS
10 EVIL DEAD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 IF ONLY
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 EVIL DEAD

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 IF ONLY
4 EVIL DEAD
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 NEW POLICE STORY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 THE ISLAND
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE ISLAND
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
6 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 CREEP
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 THE ISLAND
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 NEW POLICE STORY
7 EVIL DEAD
8 MAN OF THE HOUSE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE ISLAND
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY LUCENA
1 SIN CITY
2 THE ISLAND
3 PINOY BLONDE
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE ISLAND
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MARILAO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 THE ISLAND
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 THE ISLAND
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEW POLICE STORY
5 ALONE IN THE DARK
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY ILOILO
1 PINOY BLONDE
2 RESERVED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE ISLAND
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE ISLAND
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE ISLAND

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Springdale snatches title; Sacred Heart wins

CEBU—Springdale rallied from nine points down to nip Center for International Education and take the grade school crown by one shot, even as Sacred Heart School-Jesuit completed its challenge run in boys' high school play in the Samsung Interscholastic golf championships at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Lorenzo Almario fired 50 points, Michael Manglapus added 41 and Martin Mendoza had 38 as Springdale scored a day-best 129 for a 54-hole total of 325, one up on CIE which returned 119 for 324.

Antonio Chiongbian and Lyon Valenzuela were the other members of the Springdale team.

Vijay Vasandi III bounced back from a disqualification in the second round to score a tournament-best 52 points but failed to get the scoring support from his Springdale teammates. Raphael Wong and Jan Ybanez had 35 and 32, respectively.

Sacred Heart, made up of Franz Ian Dy, Charles Uy, Franz Olea and Shotaru Suda, scored its best round of 127 to finish with 370, far ahead of Springdale School (105-280) and Sacred Heart-Jesuit II (69-181).

University of San Carlos won the college division and CIE took the girls high school-college crown in the tournament also supported by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

The individual winners in the boys' division were Mark Anthony Dy of USC (college), Edsel Tan of Bethany Christian School (high school), Almario of Springdale (grade school) and Angelo Gandionco of Cebu Learning Center (special division).

Girls' division winners were Jyra Mae Wong (college-high school) and Juily Vasandi of CIE (special division).

Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group and Cebu junior golf chair Jovi Neri handed out the prizes to the winners.

Another Interscholastic in Manila is scheduled this September.

Taulava beefs up RP quintet

By Musong R. Castillo

ONE OF Asi Taulava's fervent wishes after reinstatement is coming true.

The 6-foot-9 Talk 'N Text center will reinforce the national team that will compete in the Jones Cup Invitational in Taiwan starting today.

Taulava, who served a long-standing suspension for failing to document his claims to Filipino citizenship, had expressed his desire to be part of the national squad after his reinstatement during the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference finals.

The Phone Pals lost to the San Miguel Beermen in five games in that championship series.

"I'm going to call him (national coach Chot Reyes) up and offer my services to the national team," said Taulava right after his reinstatement.

"I'm in shape and I want to help the national team," added Taulava, the PBA's Most Valuable Player in 2003. "In fact, I'm already used to waking up early and going to the gym. That's how committed I am."

Also making it to the Jones Cup team are six players from the squad that won two out of five games in the tough Global Hoops Summit. The other members of that squad will arrive this morning from Las Vegas.

The six—Jayjay Helterbrand, Kerby Raymundo, Tony dela Cruz, Kelly Williams, Dondon Hontiveros and Rommel Adducul—will immediately fly to Taiwan along with Reyes and the coaching staff.

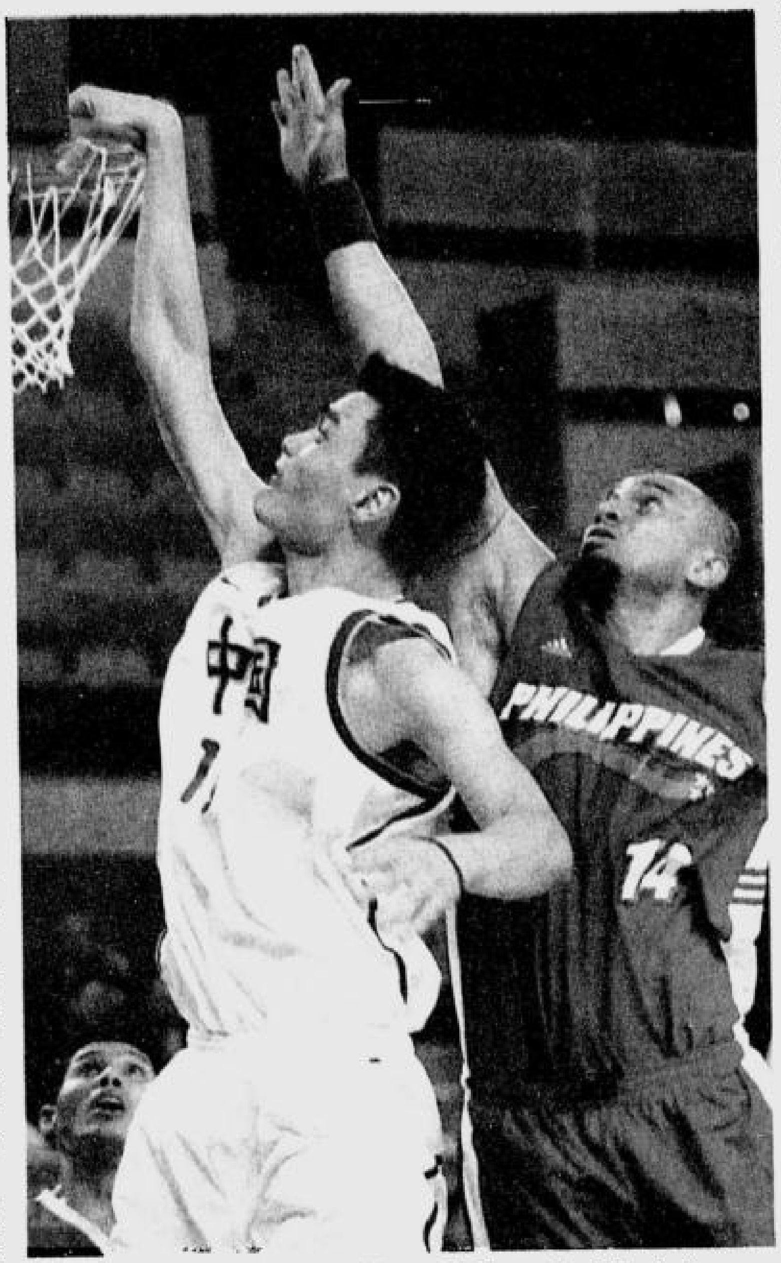
The other members of the squad are PBA standouts Brandon Cablay, Willie Miller and Yancy de Ocampo and PBL stars Dennis Miranda and Jon Dan Salvador.

Taulava adds ceiling to a squad that will face tough competition in the annual tournament, including an American squad which the Filipinos will play in its last assignment.

Taulava was part of the national team that finished fourth in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, where the Philippines lost out on a finals berth on a last-second three-pointer by South Korean gunner Lee Sang-min.

PBA to Shell: Decide now

THE PBA wrote Shell board representative Bobby Kanapi recently, asking him about the precise plans of his company with regard to the future of the Turbo Chargers in the league. It has been no secret that Shell feels that it is not getting the mileage it wants in the league and is interested in selling its PBA franchise. Shell's decision is critical to the PBA calendar, with the Annual Rookie Draft set a month from now. The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Kanapi by text and phone calls for comment. Despite dwindling attendance and plummeting television ratings, the PBA remains to be the No. 1 sports-entertainment venue in the country and a franchise in the league could still fetch about P50 million, according to a PBA insider.



ASI Taulava (right) challenges Chinese NBA star Yao Ming in the Philippines-China match during the Busan Asian Games in 2002. AFP

Familiarity with terrain keys Baguio bets' romp

BAGUIO teams used experience and familiarity with the terrain to the hilt to dominate the Elite and Novice categories of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2005 in the City of Pines last Saturday.

Overcoming the rains and the numbing cold best, Pine Praxi 13—made up of Raymundo de Jesus, Edison Morales and Marchiel Minas—zipped and darted through 16 stations to secure the Elite title.

Pine Praxi 13 clocked five hours and 34 minutes to win the top purse of P25,000 plus premium prizes from San Mig Light.

"*Wala kaming ginawang* training (We didn't train for this)," Morales said. "We just hoped and prayed that we would make it, and we did."

Taking second-place honors and the P15,000 prize was Pine Praxi 11, which checked in with a time of 5:51 minutes. Eight minutes behind the winners at third was Team JJEELL.

La Treo BSU-Gambang, composed of Benguet State University students Johnson Botengan, Raynold Andel and Junelyn Tomin, outplayed and outran 22 other Novice teams.

La Treo went through the different stages such as the run relay, basic orienteering, water paddling, trail running and rappelling in 3:32.

"I thought we would never make it," Tomin said. "Orienteering was tough."

Team leader Botengan echoed Tomin and said they prayed after hurdling every test.

La Treo, which also won the E-Bar competition on July 9 in Baguio, won P10,000 plus premium prizes from San Mig Light.

Toyota Innova of Metro Manila and Baguio's La Treo-Layad finished second and third, respectively, with identical clockings of 3:37.

Other sponsors were Bombproof Gear, Rudy Project, Casio, Planet Infinity, North Face, EZ Maps and Detour Bikeshop, and bars in Baguio City such as Gerry's Grill, Aresi's Restaurant, Gilligan's Baguio, The Republic, Red Box, On Ice, Stellar Bar, Gelo's Wharf, Club Sugar, Brewyard Bar and Grill, Mardi-Gras, Locus Bar and Grill, Four, Filter Coffee Shop, Taboo Bar and Grill, Khaldis, 18 BC, Cactus Bar and Iggy's Inn and Restaurant.

The two other legs of the series are set in Cebu City on Aug. 6 and Metro Manila on Sept. 17. For inquiries, call (063) 4141489.

Five-game bill kicks off women's futsal

TEN WOMEN'S squads clash in the fast-rising sport of futsal (indoor soccer) in today's kick-off of the adidas Women's Futsal League at the adidas Sports Kamp in Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Los Baños tangles with the Superfriends in the 4 p.m. opener of a five-game bill.

The teams will play a single round-robin elimination with the top four finishers advancing to the crossover semifinals. The winners then dispute the crown.

Expected at the opening rites are adidas marketing director Angelica Suiza, adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio and Pocholo Borromeo, president of the organizing National Capital Region Football Association.

"We're pleased with the efforts of adidas to promote and popularize futsal, first among the men, and now among the women," said Borromeo.

Said Custodio: "The future of futsal in the country looks bright. And with the NCRFA leading the way, we are only pleased to lend our support in helping boost the sport."

Five players, including the goalkeeper, play on each futsal side.

The matches are played on a court measuring 42 by 22 meters, slightly larger than a basketball court.

Among the reigning soccer stars who developed their skills through futsal are Ronaldo, Denilson and Roberto Carlos.

To give way to the women's tournament, the adidas Men's Futsal League tournament has been reset.

Army paces the first division in the first round with an 8-0-0 win-loss-draw record, followed by Air Force (6-1-1), and Kaya (6-0-2). Superfriends leads the second division (4-2-1) with Lions and Edsa sharing second spot with similar 4-1-2 cards.

Event sponsors are Globe Gentxt and Snickers Chocolate Bar.

GAMES TODAY (*adidas Sports Kamp*)
4 p.m.—Los Baños vs Superfriends
5 p.m.—Mendiola vs Borachos
6 p.m.—Nescafe 650 vs UP-B
7 p.m.—UP-A vs La Salle
8 p.m.—Miriam vs FEU

Red Ribbon
BakeShop

PFF president Johnny Romualdez (seated right) formalizes Red Ribbon's sponsorship with the company officials led by VP for marketing Jorge Concepcion (center), marketing manager Marizu Baser, field manager Edmon Domingo (left). At right is PFF general-secretary Domeka Garamendi.

PFF-Red Ribbon Football returns, adds under-15 tilt

RED Ribbon football returns to the fore today with its newly adapted "Under-15" category, an expanded season that will run up to February next year, in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The 2005 PFF-Red Ribbon U-15 Championships is the third installment of the bakeshop's support of local football.

Ed Formoso, Overall Special Events coordinator, and Edmon Domingo, Red Ribbon's Special Projects manager, will tour the various provinces where associations of the Philippine Football Federation will organize tournaments.

The 29 provincial associations tapped to stage Red Ribbon football are Laguna, Tarlac, Rizal, Davao, Dipolog, Masbate, Nueva Ecija, South Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro/Misamis Oriental, Iligan, Bukidnon, Pampanga, Baguio, Pagadian, Surigao del Norte, Naga, Agusan del Sur, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Misamis-Ozamis, Butuan-Agusan del Norte, Legaspi City/Albay, Zamboanga, Oriental Mindoro, Negros Oriental, Cebu, Camarines Norte, Quezon and the National Capital Region.

There will now be awards for a most valuable player, a skills champion, top striker, midfield player, defender and goal keeper. Certificates will also be handed out for the best eleven players in every provincial tournament.

Last year's "Red Ribbon Football Fiesta" ended with a seven-a-side festival at the Ateneo grounds.

3rd Ang Liga begins today at PhilSports

THE 3RD season of 'Ang Liga'—the prime league of the Philippine Football Federation in Metro Manila—kicks off today at the PhilSports pitch in Pasig City.

La Salle takes on University of the East at 2 p.m. while Ateneo de Manila University takes on the Under-23 National Team at 4 p.m.

Four other squads debut tomorrow at the University of Santo Tomas pitch with San Beda College tackling University of the Philippines at 2 p.m. and UST battling College of Saint Benilde at 4 p.m.

Participating in this double round tournament are UAAP champion Ateneo de Manila University, UST, University of the East, College of Saint Benilde, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University and NCAA champion and reigning 'Ang Liga' titlist San Beda.

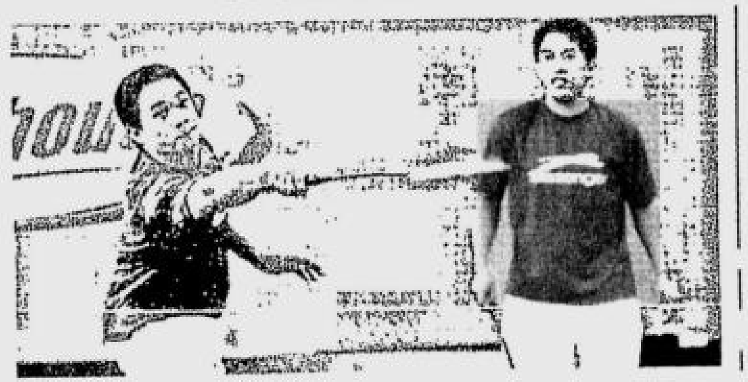
The SBC Red Lions are gunning for a 3-peat this year with head coach Aris Caslib still at the helm. Caslib also steered the Lions to the 2003 and 2004 titles.

The Under-23 National Team (U-23NT) is using this tournament as part of its buildup for the Southeast Asian Games football competition to be held in November in Bacolod.

Special guest in the opening ceremony is PFF president Johnny Romualdez.

PFF competitions committee chair Pablito Araneta said there are plans to develop Liga Luzon and Liga Visayas to complement this tournament and the successful Liga Mindanao.

SPORTSWATCH



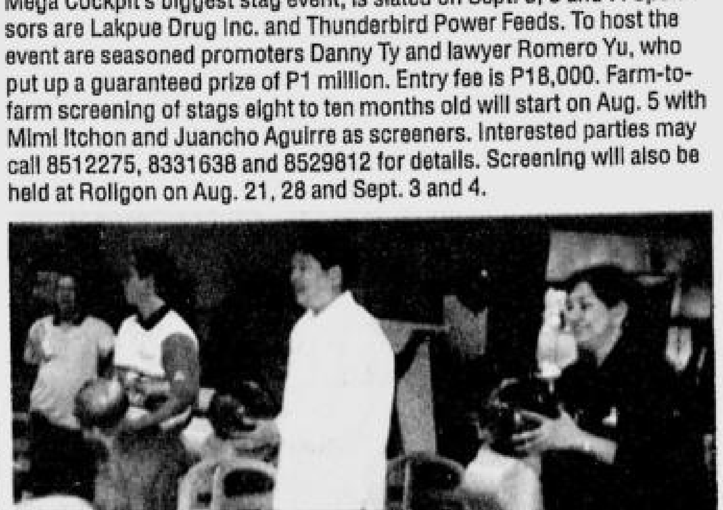
SLAZENGER'S Louie Almazan returns a shot while partner Edwin Maramba looks on during their second-round match against Panasonic's Aaron Salazar and Oliver Ysibido in the Classic division of the 2005 Sportshouse-Carlton Corporate Cup Invitational Badminton tournament at the Club 650 in Libis, Quezon City. Almazan and Maramba won, 15-10, 9-15, 15-13.

Makati Coliseum derby up Monday

MORE than 40 entries are entered in another 3-cock derby on Monday at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. The event will be hosted by WTJ Employees, assisted by Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp. of Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Participants must submit entries tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call 8963545 or 8956475 and 8956453. Up next is the "Daytime 4-Cock Derby" of Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola on Aug. 3, with P500,000 in guaranteed prize at stake. Entry fee is P6,600. Cockers and breeders are advised to contact Makati Coliseum for cockhouse reservations.

Showdown 7-Stag set at Roligon

THE 19TH season of "National Showdown 7-Stag Derby," Roligon Mega Cockpit's biggest stag event, is slated on Sept. 3, 5 and 7. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Power Feeds. To host the event are seasoned promoters Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu, who put up a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Entry fee is P18,000. Farm-to-farm screening of stags eight to ten months old will start on Aug. 5 with Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre as screeners. Interested parties may call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812 for details. Screening will also be held at Roligon on Aug. 21, 28 and Sept. 3 and 4.



CEREMONIAL ROLL—Jaime Dychauco (second from right), Philippine Bowling Congress executive vice president, gets set to make the ceremonial roll together with former world champion Bong Coo (right), now a PBC director, and Lipa City Tenpin Bowling Association president Dr. Leo Joson during the opening of the 2nd LCTBA Open Invitational Championship recently.

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SATURDAY Special

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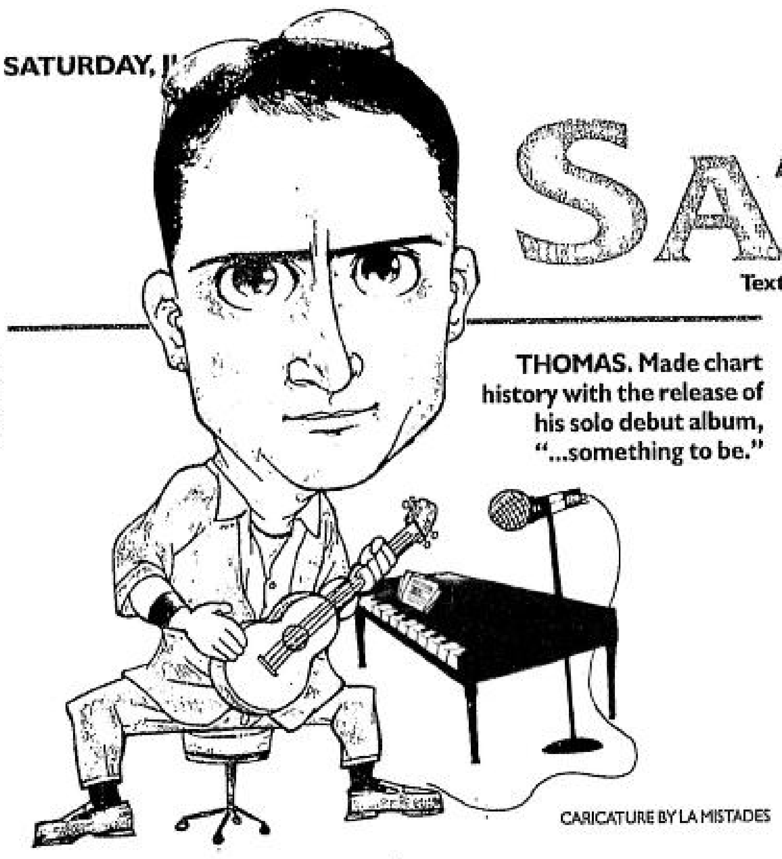


THOMAS. Made chart history with the release of his solo debut album, "...something to be."

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

Rob Thomas
is at the top of his game

Show Biz Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

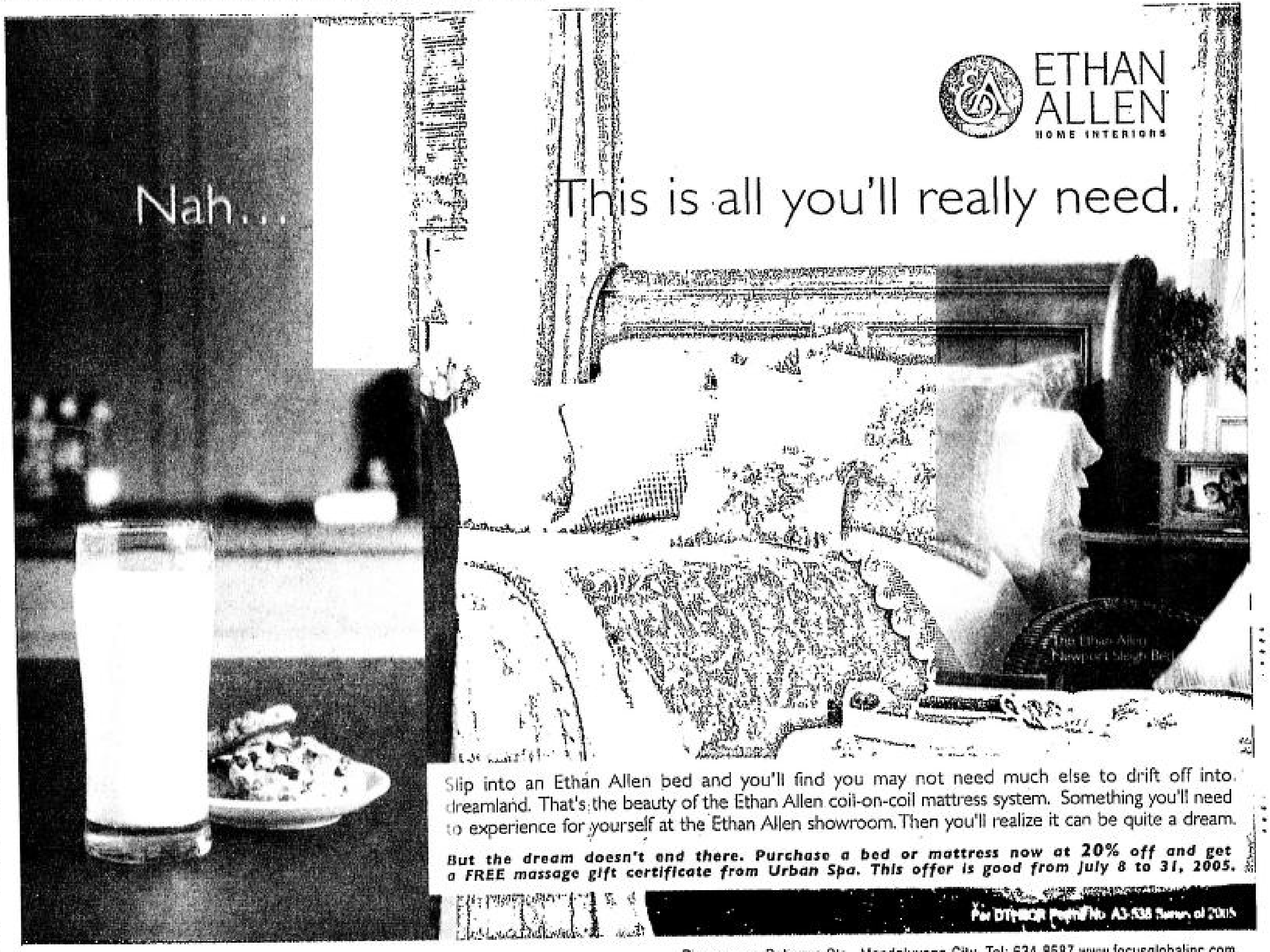
WE'RE treating pop-rock aficionados to an exclusive interview with Rob Thomas, Matchbox 20's 33-year-old multiple Grammy-winning front man, whose solo album, "...something to be," recently made history when it debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top 200 chart—the first time that a male artist from a rock or pop group debuted at the top spot with his first solo effort!

Candor and modesty

Truth to tell, we half-expected a cocky celebrity who would gloat with the sheen of his puffed-up self-importance. But, we were glad to be proven wrong: Thomas surprised us with his wit, candor and modesty!

For starters, Rob denies that Matchbox 20 disbanded after he found success in his solo endeavors.

ROB/A2-3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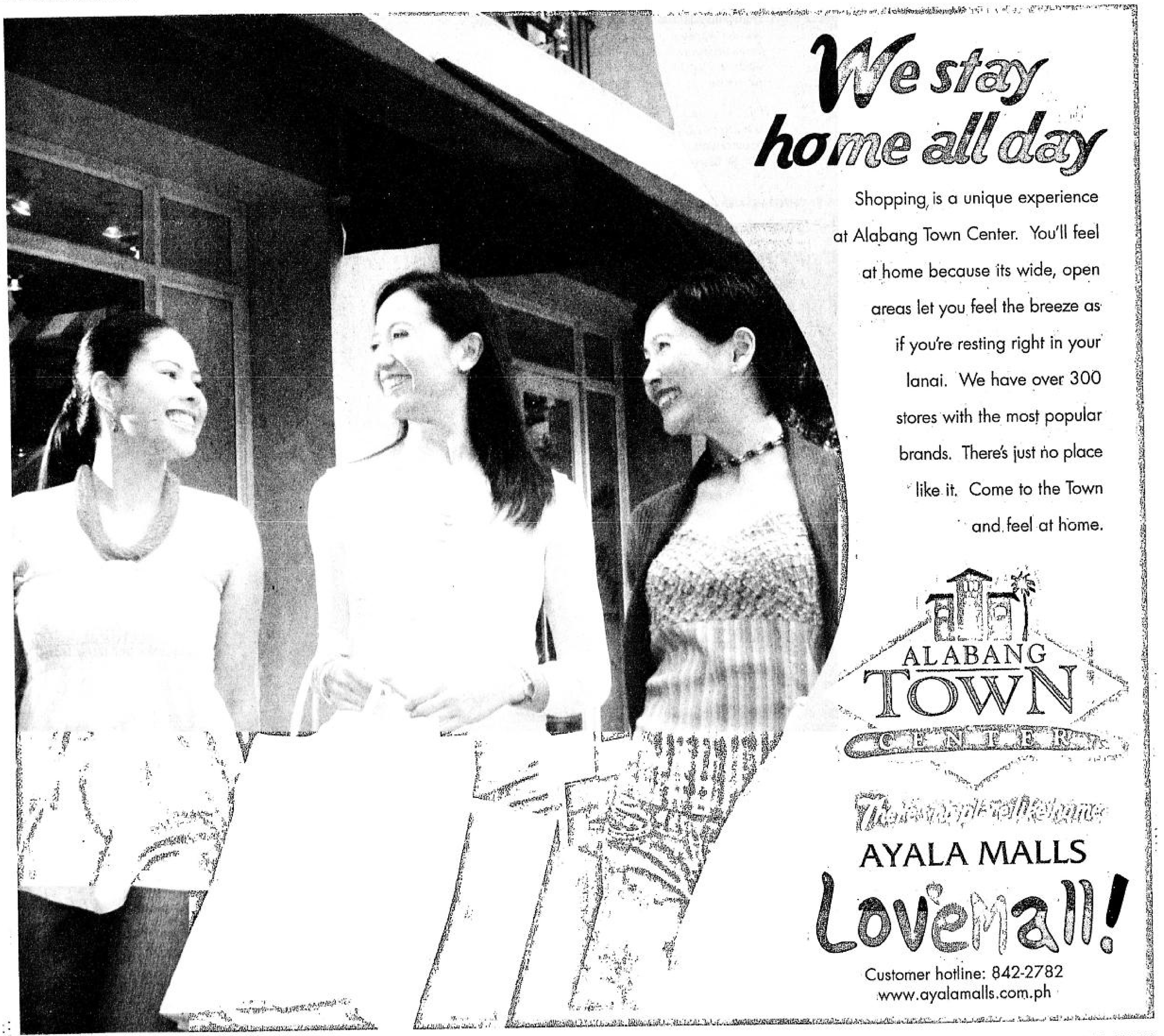

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John Chua—Advertising Photography
Dominique James—Portrait and Nude Photography
Xander Angeles—Fashion Photography
Ernie Sarmiento—Sports Photography
Jo Avila—Digital Darkroom Technique
Albert Garcia / Boy Cabrido—Photojournalism

Plus, an exhibit of the works of award-winning Iraq and Afghanistan war photographers **Romeo Gacad** (AFP), **Aaron Favila** (AP), **Bullit Marquez** (AP), **Eric de Castro** (Reuters) and **Dennis Sabangan** (EPA).

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Go For Gold		Corporate Billiards League		The Working President	Environmental Documentary	Paco Park Presents		Boxing Elorde	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Sabado Movie Greats			Kontrobersyal (11:45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	Advance Discovery Unlimited	Winner TV Shopping	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		Lizzie Mcguire	Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	ABCinema (One Room Castle)		
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Wag Kukurap (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		24 Oras (8:20 PM)		Imbestigador (9:25 PM)		Idol Ko Si Kap (10:40PM)		
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		45th RPN Anniversary Concert				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		JVC Badminton Open				Bitag		In This Corner		MTV	
SBN 21		SBN Sing Along		Friends Again		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Real Deal
MTV Philippines	Handpicked: Brooke Valentine	Boiling Points # 203	MTV Live Will Smith In Africa	MTV Live Outkast	Viva La Bam # 107	Dismissed # 817	Wildboyz # 103	Punk'd # 408	One Badtrip # 206	MTV Play	MTV's 50 Most Stylish Videos (Part 2)				CArmen & Dave # 102	Brand New	Making The Video: Jessica These Boot	MTV Play	MTV2: Audioslave Live in Cuba
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		Mobile MYX Top Picks	Top Of The Pops	MYX Live!		MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	CNN Business Traveler	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart: Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN						Table Tennis '05 Killerspin				Major League Baseball								2005 Senior Open C'ships	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		WTA '05 Nasdaq Open				GWS	2005 MVP Cup Asia vs. Europe				Fight	WTA '05 Ordina Open Finals				NBA Action	TV Over Time
Sports Plus											Tour De France	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Tour De France			
Cinemax			Into Thin Air: Death On Everest			Wheelmen (5:15 PM)				Hollywood Homicide				Unforgiven				No Way Up (11:10PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	The Peacekeeper Wars				The Peacekeeper Wars				A Time To Remember				Mitch Albom's 5 People You Meet In Heaven					Mitch Albom's 5 People You Meet In Heaven
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Parent Trap 1				That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	The Amazing Zorro	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Evolver	One Step Beyond	I Survived		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		True Horror	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				United Snake Of America		Creature Feature				Animals Like Us		The Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Barbie As Rapunzel			Cartoon Cartoon Show 'Ed	Gransazer #1	Crush Gear Nitro	Justice League	Space Ghost Coast to Coast	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous (New!)/ Grown Up, My Dad The Rock/ Star Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Event Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Revealed With Jules Asner		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
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AXN		Lost		Lost		WRC 2005 Argentina		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Lost		In The Line Of Fire			
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HBO		The Net (3:05 PM)				Conspiracy Theory				2 Fast 2 Furious (7:15 PM)				Chasing Liberty				Torque (10:50PM)	
Star Movies				Species 2 (3:50 PM)	Me, Myself and Irene (5:20 PM)				Just Married (7:20 PM)			Die Another Day				Die Hard (11:15PM)			
Cinema One	9 Mornings				Markova: Comfort Gay				My Movie				SPO1 Don Juan Da Dancing Policeman				Feng Shui		
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Fr. John Corapi					The Church And Culture Today	Life on The Rock Encore	

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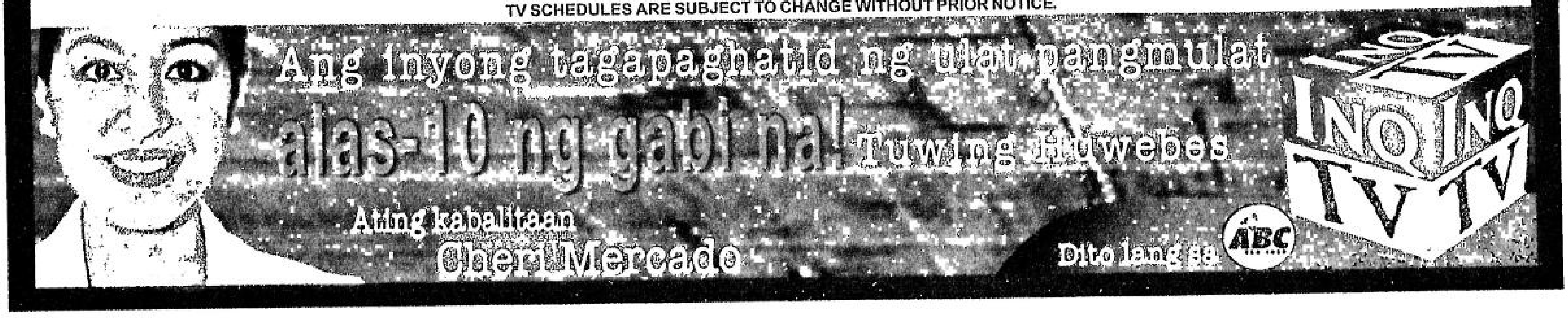
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FANTASY, HORROR flicks dominate 2005 MMFF

By Nestor U. Torre

THE 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival's executive committee has just come out with its official choices of movies for this year's December filmfest: "Mulawin" (fantasy), "Enteng Kabisote 2" (comedy-fantasy), "Kutob" (horor-suspense), "Ako Legal Wife" (comedy), "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (horror), "Nasaan Ka ng Kailangan Kita?" (drama), and "Exodus" (action-fantasy).

These official seven entries were chosen from 21 screenplays submitted for consideration by both mainstream and alternative producers. The seven choices show a decided preference for established studios (Regal, Good Harvest GMA Films, M-Zet, Canary, Imus)—so much for diversity on the local film front!

GUTIERREZ. From the boob tube to the big screen.

Choice of themes

Also dismayingly narrow-minded is the 2005 festival's choice of themes and film types, as revealed by its extreme emphasis on fantasy and horror. Perhaps the "explanation" is that the Christmas season is supposed to be for children, hence the preponderance of fantasy and horror projects, but we don't buy that argument.

Ironically, even as the festival is overloaded with commercial projects, the people behind it keep talking about "quality." Pardon, but something seems to have been lost in translation…

No, the 2005 filmfest is generally canted in favor of established producers, and facile projects conceptualized to draw as many viewers as possible—the more escapist, the better. Three of the entries are even produced by the same company and its sister studio.

This was a big, hot bone of contention last year, but they're doing the same thing again. They never learn, do they?

Well, oppositors who want to restore the Metro filmfest's correct focus will just have to work much harder this year to get their valid points across.

An interesting sidelight: for the first time within memory, the 2005 festival has a decidedly masculine bias: All seven entries' casts are led by male stars:

"Mulawin" has Richard Gutierrez, "Enteng" stars Vic Sotto, "Kutob" topbills Diether Ocampo, "Ako Legal Wife" is led by Jay Manalo, "Shake" is headlined by Rainier Castillo, "Nasaan" stars Christopher de Leon, and "Exodus" has Bong Revilla.

Yes, there are female stars in all of these films, but the projects are being sold on the basis of their male leads. That's an unusual development on the local movie scene.

Roster of directors

Also note that the 2005 festival's roster of directors isn't as star-studded and quality-oriented as in past filmfests—no Chito Roño, Jeffrey Jeturian, Laurice Guillen, Olivia Lamasan, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Tikoy Aguiluz, etc. Instead, Tony Reyes, Joey Reyes, Joel Lamangan, Erik Matti, Maryo delos Reyes and Dominic Zapanta/Mark Reyes are being fielded.

Another oddity: Look at all those Reyeses in the directorial credits! Just a coincidence, but is this going to be a regal festival in more ways than one—?

And so, the desultory festival unreels…

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DORIA. Prefers natural fabrics.

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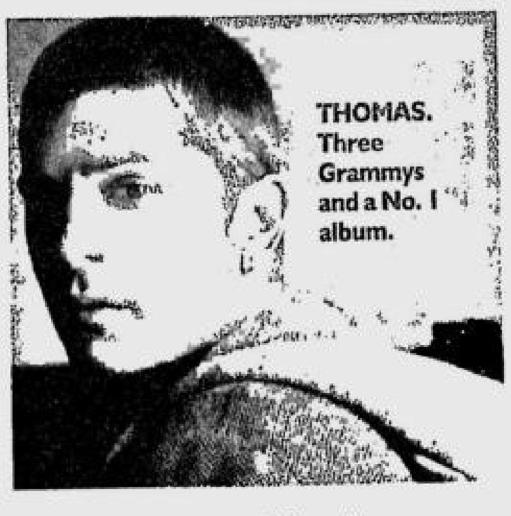
Rob Thomas is at the top of his game

From page A2-1

He explains, "The group has not disbanded—we're just taking a break. My tandem with Carlos Santana ('Smooth') happened after Matchbox's first album, 'Yourself or Something Like You' (which has gone platinum 12 times over). If I had to pick one single thing that I've done that changed my life and career more than anything else, that would have to be my collaboration with Carlos. After 'Smooth,' Matchbox 20 waxed two more records ('Mad Season,' 'More Than You Think You Are').

"Whenever I write outside of Matchbox 20, I always get a chance to compose songs that are more pop or Latin—but, I never get to perform them! So, going solo is an opportunity to step outside the convention. (Drummer) Paul Doucette is busy with his album, and (guitarist) Kyle Cook is having fun with his own band."



THOMAS. Three Grammys and a No. 1 album.

Conscious effort

In his "Lonely No More" video, Rob displays some slick terpsichorean moves. Critics have also noted that the music of "…something to be" is more Justin Timberlake than Matchbox 20. Was it a conscious effort for him to create a sound that's more pop and dance than rock?

He clarifies: "It was important for me to do something different—but, 'Lonely No More' is the only track that sounds really dance-y. My favorite tracks are 'Even the Same,' 'When the Heartache Ends' and 'Now Comes the Night,' because they're very personal.

"I write songs from a collage of experiences—I don't know how to write otherwise. My music is influenced by songwriters rather than singers: I was a big Willie Nelson fan. I loved Tom Petty, Paul Simon, Elvis Costello and Fleetwood Mac. I'd love to collaborate with Bono and The Edge because we have an astounding connection, musically. But, my favorite Matchbox 20 song is 'You Won't be Mine,' from our second album."

How did he feel when his solo album debuted at No.1?

He shares: "It was the first time I'd ever had a No. 1—Matchbox 20, despite enormous record sales, hasn't had a No. 1 album. So, it was surreal! I'm satisfied with the success that the group has enjoyed, but after 10 years, it's good to find another plateau to hit."

Looks and charisma

He's no slouch in the looks and charisma department, so we ask Rob if he has plans to venture into acting like Jon Bon Jovi ("The Leading Man," "Ally McBeal") or Justin Timberlake ("Edison")? He laughs, "Thank you, but I don't think I could ever find the time to do something else other than music. And, quite frankly, I think I would suck at acting!"

What was his reaction when he landed on People magazine's "Most Beautiful People" list? He replies, "That was pretty funny! That came out in 1996, and I haven't been on that list after that. So, apparently, I've gotten less beautiful as the years go by!"

(To be concluded)

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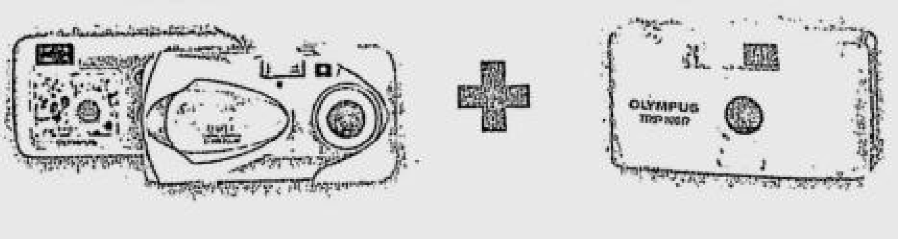

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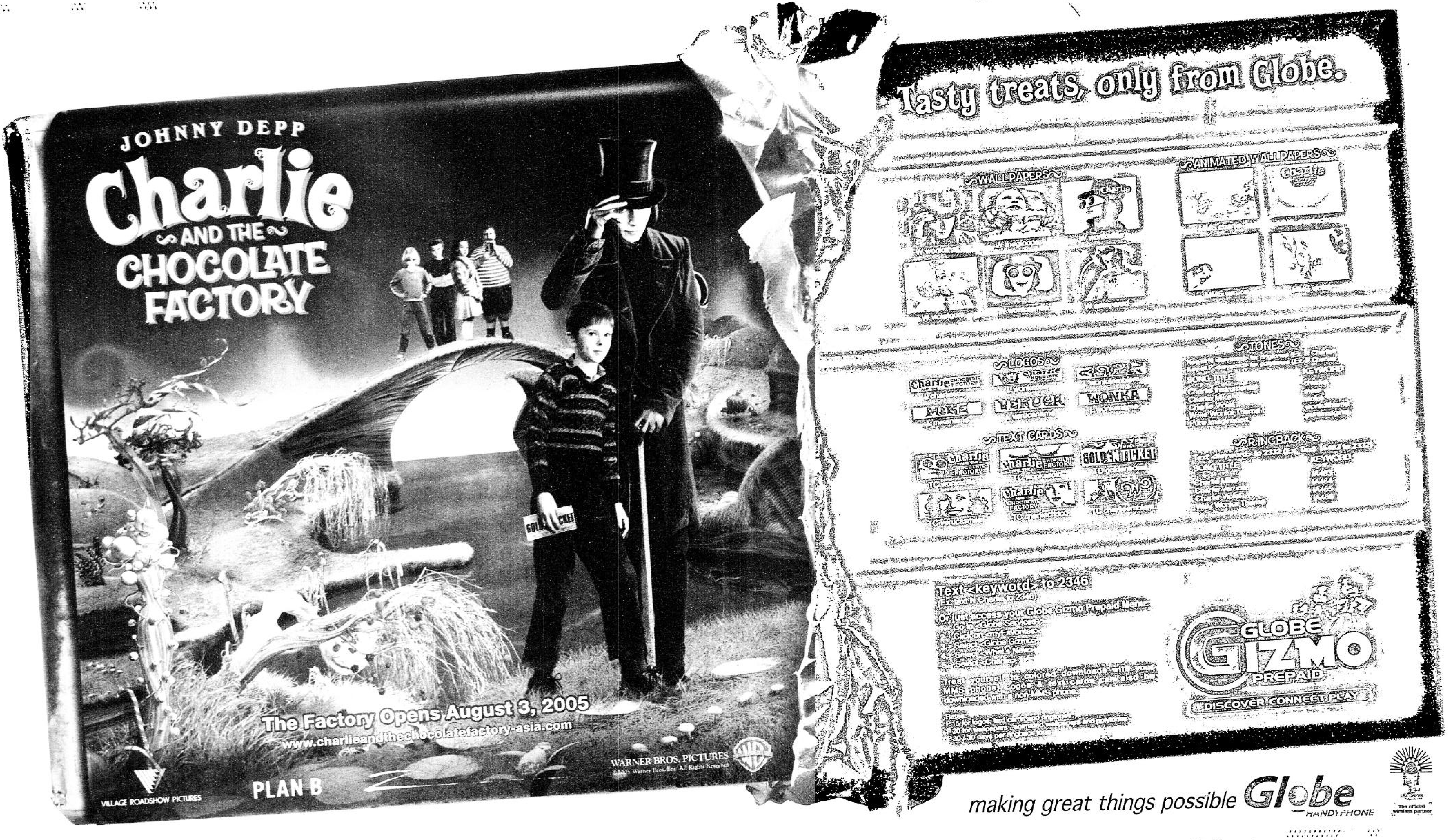
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JOHANSSON AND MCGREGOR. Big-screen appeal and art-house credentials.

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Island"

D: Michael Bay
S: Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson

SET 14 years into the future, Michael Bay's sleek but derivative cautionary tale about cloning zeroes in on Lincoln Six-Echo (Ewan McGregor) and Jordan Two-Delta (Scarlett Johansson), who live in a seemingly utopian but environmentally-controlled facility. Managed by Dr. Merrick (Sean Bean), the facility houses more than a thousand residents allegedly "rescued" from the now "infected" outside world.

The carefully monitored inhabitants are educated to the level of a 15-year-old, and live with almost identical "memory imprints" about their respective domestic lives before Earth succumbed to The Contamination. They exist like automatons who must follow rigid laws about behavior and human interaction. In this deceptively calm haven, intimacy is a taboo, and sex is an unknown concept.

To escape the structured tedium of their existence, individuals yearn to win The Lottery. The prize? Relocation to "The Island"—the planet's last remaining pathogen-free zone!

But, things aren't always what they seem, and Merrick's dystopian "paradise" is shaken to its core when Lincoln's curiosity about his comfortable but anesthetic world sets in! (Come to think of it, Ridley Scott's 1982 classic sci-fi noir, "Blade Runner," was also set in 2019.)

Bay's film may not rate high on point of originality (M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village," anyone?), but its fast-paced albeit implausibly staged action sequences, first-rate special effects, and relevant and timely premise constantly engage the viewer's attention.

Likewise, the ethical issue the movie raises foments the emerging debate on the moral repercussions of stem-cell research as a tool for the management of incurable diseases.

McGregor and Johansson's big-screen appeal and impressive art-house credentials add sizzle, substance and spice to the incorrigibly over-the-top director's penchant for eardrum-smashing explosions. Particularly notable is Ewan's cheeky portrayal of Lincoln's Scottish doppelganger in scenes that are as amusing as they are disturbing.

"The Assassination of Richard Nixon"

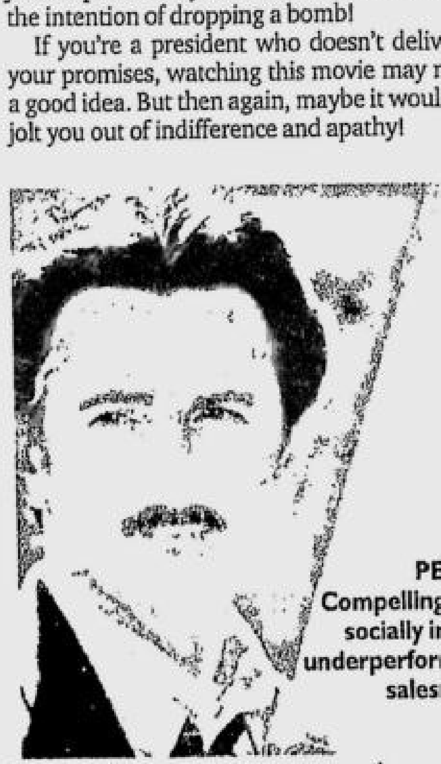
D: Niels Mueller
S: Sean Penn, Naomi Watts, Don Cheadle

In Niels Mueller's sluggish, fact-based drama set during Richard Nixon's tumultuous regime in the early '70s, the astonishing Sean Penn subtly limns the loneliness, anxiety and desperation of 44-year-old Samuel Bicke, a socially inept, underperforming office furniture salesman, who downward-spirals into depression and madness when his American Dream falls apart.

After frustrating attempts to start a tire business, which he banks on to save his rocky marriage (he's separated from his wife, Marie, played by Naomi Watts, and their two daughters), something snaps in Bicke when he is officially served with divorce papers. Heck, even his dog—supposedly man's best friend—appears distant when he asks him, "You love me, don't you?"

Then, in a prescient 9/11 scenario that he explains to Leonard Bernstein (whose music he adores) through tapes he sends the legendary musician, he hatches a plan to assassinate Nixon, whom he blames for his failures: He hijacks a plane to fly over the White House, with the intention of dropping a bomb!

If you're a president who doesn't deliver on your promises, watching this movie may not be a good idea. But then again, maybe it would—to jolt you out of indifference and apathy!



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2 THE ISLAND
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

3 EVIL DEAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:25 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00

8 BHAGAT SINGH 1:00MF / 7:30LMF
YAADEIN 4:00 MF

9 IF ONLY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE ISLAND
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL DEAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 SHANGHAI LILY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 IF ONLY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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1 IF ONLY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

3 EVIL DEAD
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 THE ISLAND
4:00 7:00

7 THE ISLAND
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

8 NEW POLICE STORY
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

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Roces receives Min-On's highest honor

By Nestor U. Torre

LATE last month, Southeast Asia Foundation for Children and Television president Edgardo Roces and secretary-general Mag Cruz Hatol flew to Tokyo, Japan to confer the foundation's special Anak TV Broadcasters' Award on Soka Gakkai International (SGI) head Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, in gratitude for his acclaimed TV series of inspiring children's stories, "Happy Tales."

Roces was very pleasantly surprised when, at festive ceremonies at Soka Gakkai headquarters in Tokyo, Dr. Ikeda's son, Hiromasa, graciously returned the compliment by awarding the SEAFCTV president with the Min-On Award of Highest Honor. (Min-On is SGI's cultural and artistic arm.)

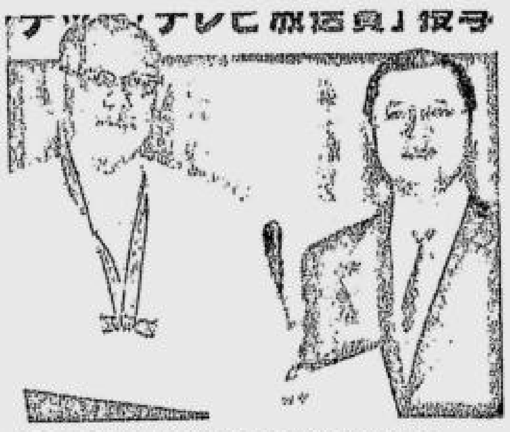
Contribution

Roces was praised for his "noble endeavors based on the ideals of humanism," for having made "a great contribution to peace in the world, and the creation and development of culture."

Aside from the conferment of honors, Roces and Hatol were taken on a tour of Soka Gakkai's various offices and museums, including a special tour of Soka University.

Roces was impressed with the university's facilities. He shares: "It was refreshing not only to visit a remarkable campus, but also to have met and discussed a wide range of topics with distinguished men of the academe.

"Our visit to Soka University in Hachioji was a major highlight of our trip to bestow a special honor to the venerable Dr. Ikeda, an icon in international affairs, and a recognized crusader for peace."



ROCES (WITH IKEDA, RIGHT). Noble endeavors based on ideals of humanism.

SEAFCTV and Soka Gakkai found it easy to come to a meeting of minds and hearts because they are one in seeking the betterment of children through the production of values-laden television programs.

The enormous popular and critical success of "Happy Tales" in the Philippines has inspired the foundation to initiate or support similar endeavors in the future.

Success

For its part, Soka Gakkai has been greatly heartened by the series' success in the Philippines, which has prompted it to show the televised tales in other Asian countries, as well.

The SEAFCTV officials further hope that the series' success will encourage other producers to come up with inspiring shows for children, *and* prompt Soka Gakkai to produce Dr. Ikeda's other children's tales in a new series of animated shows.

—Very positive and inspiring prospects all around!

'Cerrudo: Classico'

MONTAGE

VERSATILE theater actor, concert performer and recording artist Bimbo Cerrudo will have a dinner-concert series entitled "Cerrudo: Classico" to be staged on all Thursdays of August through November at Quisine (formerly Giraffe) at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

His repertoire consists of songs from theater musicals and cinema, power ballads, and classical-pop crossover tunes. He will be accompanied by a chamber music quartet.

Call 0918 926-2297, or email cerrudoclassico@yahoo.com

Susan in Dolphy's birthday special

Dolphy celebrates his 77th birthday in grand style today, as ABS-CBN's "Quizon Avenue" hosts a grand party for the one and only Comedy King.

Ai-Ai delas Alas will offer a hilarious song number for the Comedy King. And movie queen Susan Roces makes a rare appearance to give a personal greeting to her long-time friend.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 23 at 7:45 a.m., "Only You." 9:30 a.m., "About Schmidt." July 24 at 6 a.m., "Charlotte Gray." 2:30 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." 4:55, "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas."

On Cinemax, July 23 at 9 a.m., "The Dukes of Hazzard: Reunion!" 9 p.m., "Unforgiven." July 24 at 9 a.m., "48 Hrs." 3:30 p.m., "Above Suspicion."

CERRUDO. Performs at Quisine.

On soothing wings of yester-year's songs

By Behn Cervantes

CALL me romantic—or if you prefer, old-fashioned! I probably am, at least, as far as music is concerned! Music today is plain noisy, so the volume needed for its appreciation is deafening at least to unappreciative ears like mine.

Furthermore, most of the lyrics escape me. Hardly ever are they romantic—many times, they are just plain gross! I can't figure out the mumbo-jumbo, especially the way singers these days scream, holler or moan.

At full volume

I cannot abide with the boom-boom-boom kind of music that gets me palpitating and wishing I were somewhere else. This is the music that jeepney and bus drivers love to play—at full volume, to drown out Manila's traffic din.

It's the same music that bored cashiers play to keep themselves awake. Customers now accept this volume as part of the scene, so they scream to each other to be heard above the clanking of plates, clinking of glasses, honking of horns, and a radio or TV set playing at full volume.—Noise pollution at its worst!

Classical music

Naturally, when away from the madding crowd, I listen only to classical music. Therefore, my radio at home is pegged at dzFE. Haplessly, by 1 p.m., the radio station goes off the air due to economic constraints.

I quickly go to 104.3, a station that plays old standards in the afternoon. What a relief to listen to intelligible lyrics, and hear soothing voices once again!

How wonderful to listen to Lena Horne, Dick Haymes, Dinah Shore, Doris Day and Vic Damone interpreting their signature numbers. My favorite female singer is Polly Bergen. When she renders Helen Morgan classics, I am transported to another time and place.

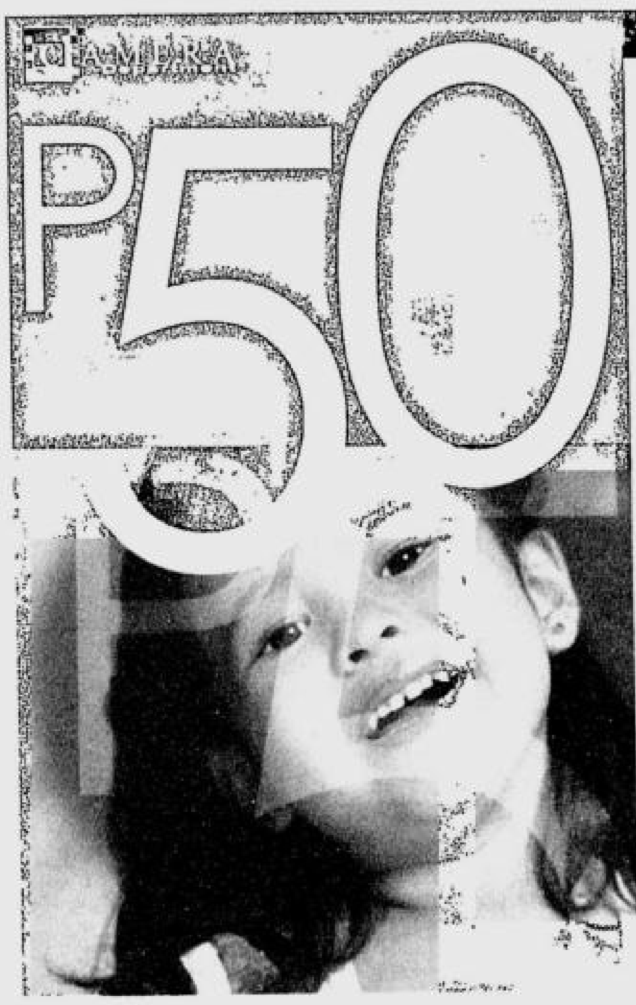
Pre-Elvis Presley (that's a clear giveaway), Roy Hamilton, Johnny Ray and Frankie Laine were seemingly over the top. Compared to today's screamers, however, they were soothing and relaxing singers. As someone of my era declares, "Now, those singers had *voices!*"

Selections

Mid-afternoon, when it has turned hot and you are feeling sluggish, you are reawakened by tunes from Broadway and movie musicals.

During weekdays, Bon Vivar minds the store. I finally got hold of him to tell him how much I appreciate the time he and the other announcers take to turn back the hands of time for us oldies and goodies. The glorious past returns *via* mellow, romantic melodies with lyrics that were meant to be understood and remembered.

I also asked Von to tell the Sunday group made up of Jo San Diego, Bong Lapira, Lito Gorospe and Barr Samson how so many of us enjoy reliving the sentimental and joyous '40s and '50s with them. They transport us to the beautiful past with love and music!



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Real-life hero

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THIS is a true story. One day, a young woman was rescued on a snow-covered mountain. She was airlifted in a helicopter. When the chopper was in the air, the paramedic asked the woman: "Do you recognize the man who's flying this chopper?"

Familiar

The woman replied, "His face looks familiar, but his name escapes me."

The paramedic said, "He is Harrison Ford, the movie actor!" The woman was thrilled that she was being rescued by a top Hollywood personality.

Why was Ford doing this?, she thought. No, he wasn't "preparing" for a role—he was simply volunteering to assist the needy!

In a world full of fake heroes who constantly crave for the limelight, it is heartwarming to hear stories like this. When the media heard about the incident, reporters tried to make a big deal out of the rescue, but Ford downplayed the incident and simply shrugged his shoulders. He wanted to help, that was all!

We need people who are motivated by the desire to serve others, people who will do so without payment or recognition.

Ford is worth emulating—a celebrity who's worth the luster of his star!

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Action, romance heat up new film treats

By Nestor U. Torre

"STEALTH," Rob Cohen's high-flying action-adventure, is about three fighter pilots (Josh Lucas, Jamie Foxx and Jessica Biel) in a top-secret military program. They struggle to bring an artificial intelligence-based unmanned combat plane under control—before it initiates World War Three!

Cohen on his film: "'Stealth' is about war and technology—and, just as important, about technology being the child we've created, and what could happen if that child surpasses us in ability."

Debt of gratitude

"Bewitched" is the big-screen version of the hit '60s sitcom starring Elizabeth Montgomery as a white witch. The movie acknowledges its debt of gratitude to the sitcom by including it in its plot:

LUCAS. Plays a fighter pilot in Rob Cohen's movie about war and technology.

Will Ferrell plays the self-absorbed, has-been actor Jack Wyatt, who plans to make his comeback in an updated version of the sitcom, reconceived as a starring vehicle for himself in the role of Darrin.

But, fate steps in when Jack accidentally runs into Isabel (Nicole Kidman), a naive, good-natured witch, who's determined to disavow her supernatural powers and lead a "normal" life.

Immediately, attracted to her and her nose, Jack is convinced that she could play the witch Samantha in his new series.

"Must Love Dogs" packs a double whammy when it comes to audience appeal: It is bent on attracting not just romantic-comedy fans, but canine lovers as well.

The film follows the bumpy, comic and ultimately rewarding journey of a woman who cautiously rediscovers romance and learns to trust her own instincts again.

Hilarious hero

"Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo" takes its hilarious hero to new happy hunting grounds, after Deuce (Rob Schneider) is seduced back to his pleasure-for-pay profession when his former pimp is implicated in the murders of Europe's greatest gigolos.

Now, Deuce must go back undercover in order to clear the name of his good friend.

"Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" is a touching tale of friendship, focusing on one very special summer in the lives of four lifelong chums.

Introduced as babies born to mothers who met in a prenatal aerobic class, they grew up together and developed an enduring bond despite their distinctly different personalities.

Now, however, they're about to be separated, as their lives take them in different directions for the very first time.

On a shopping trip together, they find a pair of thrift-shop jeans that magically fits all of them. They then decide to use the pants as a way of keeping in touch during the months ahead, each one wearing them for a week to see what luck they bring, before mailing them on to the next friend.

FERRELL AND KIDMAN. Topbill big-screen update of classic TV sitcom.

Insomniac

Finally, "The Machinist" is about Trevor Reznik, an insomniac who hasn't slept in a year! Trevor's work involves operating heavy machinery, and it's only a matter of time before this insomnia-caused lack of concentration results in an accident. A fellow worker is almost killed, leading the other workers to turn against him.

On top of his woes, he sees an "invisible" man, and Trevor soon realizes that, the more he sees, the less he wants to know! Trevor is played by the acclaimed young dramatic actor, Christian Bale.

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Political jitters still weighing on peso

Other Asian currencies rise on yuan revaluation

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Michelle V. Remo

CHINA'S revaluation of the yuan yesterday shored up some Asian currencies against the US dollar but for the Philippine peso, the euphoria was swiftly reversed by heavy corporate demand and jitters ahead of beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

The local currency opened at an intra-day high of 55.25 to a dollar after the revaluation was announced the previous night, but it swung back to a low of 55.94 later during the day.

At the end of trading, the peso even shed 14 centavos to close at 55.89 from Thursday's 55.75 to the US dollar, as against the currencies of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and India whose respective central banks even had to intervene to slow down their currencies' appreciation.

The yuan surged by 2 percent after the government cut the currency's peg to the US dollar Thursday night—following years of lobbying by the United States and the European nations.

"The appreciation of the various currencies will be in varying degrees, which means that those not appreciating will be gaining more export competitiveness," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters at the sidelines of a forum with the Makati Business Club yesterday.

Local currency traders said the market turned cautious ahead of the the three-day weekend and the Sona amid allegations of election-rigging against the President and illegal gambling payoffs against her family members.

But while the peso was among those only briefly swept by the tide, Tetangco said the impact on external trade would likewise be minimal given the relatively small proportion of trade with China.

"In terms of impact on trade, about 5 percent of total sales goes to China and most of it are in semiconductors and partly ma-

POLITICAL/ B2

SEC threatens takeover of CAP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has given beleaguered College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) 10 days to explain why it should not be taken over by a management committee and face stiff penalties for serious lapses in reportorial requirements, said SEC Commissioner and pre-need oversight officer Jesus Martinez.

Martinez said CAP was issued an omnibus show-cause letter on Thursday. The administrative sanctions could include a management takeover.

CAP has about 160,000 availing plan holders and P1.2 billion worth of liabilities in the semester starting October. Its total plan holders stood at 720,000.

CAP officials said they have yet to receive the SEC's show-cause letter and study the violations leveled against the company. They added that some P1 billion in fresh funds would soon come in for CAP.

SEC Commissioner Joselia Poblador earlier pushed for the immediate creation of a mancom to take over the operations of CAP.

CAP's license to sell education plans was suspended last year as it struggled to find new capital to address its trust fund deficit.

CAP president Enrique Sobrepeña Jr. had told INQUIRER in a statement that the decision by the SEC "was not made properly" since CAP was not given enough opportunity to correct alleged disinformation.

"It was done without proper study of the business, especially in the computation of plan holder liabilities, called the actuarial reserve liability. The SEC must address the problem by considering it as an investment contract, so you don't use predictions running to as far as 30 years. The 17,000-member Society of Actuaries of America's The Financial Reporter came out with a paper saying that pre-need education and pension plans in the Philippines are not insurance but investments," Sobrepeña said.

He added that the SEC's accounting rules were insurance-based. "As investments, the measurement of liability will be based on contractual liabilities, not arbitrary actuarial assumptions. Who can ever predict the rise and fall of the economy and investment yields over the next thirty years. Yet, that is what the SEC's rules have called for."

He also said the oversight committee report on the financial picture of CAP might be inaccurate.

A CAP official also questioned the oversight committee report's claim that as of March, CAP's

SEC/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **DTI chief pushes new tax measure** /B3
- **Bad property loans hit 20% in '04** /B3
- **DTI monitors TV sets** /B3

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Unpaved RP roads

(As of August 2004, in percent)

REGION	UNPAVED ROADS (as % to total roads)
NCR	0.1
CAR	66.5
Region I - Ilocos	12.4
Region II - Cagayan Valley	28.5
Region III - Central Luzon	15.9
Region IV A - Calabarzon	13.0
Region IV B - Mimaropa	51.9
Region V - Bicol	30.1
Region VI - Western Visayas	27.6
Region VII - Central Visayas	17.4
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	22.6
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	43.5
Region X - Northern Mindanao	30.4
Region XI - Davao Region	41.7
Region XII - Soccskscargen	33.9
Region XIII - Caraga	51.8

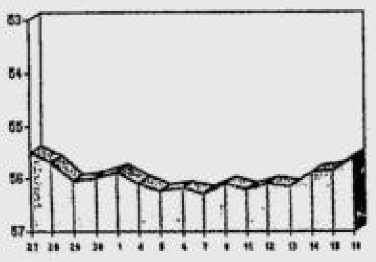
Sources: Congressional Planning and Budget Development

OF THE COUNTRY'S over 28,000 kilometers of roads, 29.6 percent remain unpaved i.e. made of earth and gravel instead of concrete or asphalt. Roads and bridges account for 25 percent of the whole public sector infrastructure budget of P117.4 billion.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JUNE JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.890 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 22, 2005

¥ 110.90 = $ 1

As of 3 p.m., July 21, 2005

GOLD: **$423.30-423.80**

per ounce Hong Kong, July 21, 2005

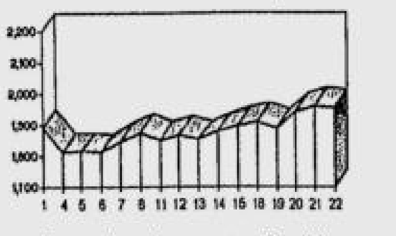
July 22, 2005

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823588	1.000000	55.9040
Japan	Yen	0.007301	0.008865	0.4956
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433784	1.740900	97.3233
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105889	0.128571	7.1876
Switzerland	Franc	0.639978	0.777061	43.4408
Canada	Dollar	0.674629	0.819135	45.7929
Singapore	Dollar	0.488892	0.593613	33.1853
Australia	Dollar	0.620078	0.752899	42.0901
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.184756	2.652731	148.2983
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219611	0.266652	14.9069
Brunei	Dollar	0.487445	0.591856	33.0871
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019549	0.023736	1.3269
UAE	Dirham	0.224270	0.272309	15.2232
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214200	67.8786
Argentina	Peso	0.287967	0.349650	19.5468
Brazil	Real	0.349008	0.423765	23.6902
Denmark	Kroner	0.133989	0.162689	9.0950
India	Rupee	0.018951	0.023010	1.2864
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216745	0.263172	14.7124
Mexico	New Peso	0.077533	0.094140	5.2628
New Zealand	Dollar	0.553859	0.672495	37.5952
Norway	Kroner	0.125186	0.152001	8.4975
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013819	0.016779	0.9380
South Africa	Rand	0.123173	0.149557	8.3608
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.000960	0.0537
Sweden	Kroner	0.105554	0.128164	7.1649
Syria	Pound	0.015866	0.019264	1.0769
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025826	0.031358	1.7530
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0261

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.32% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.32 percent lower yesterday as investors took profits from a three-day run-up due to fresh political concerns ahead of beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo's address to Congress next week, dealers said.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

They said the market had been ripe for a correction with many counters viewed as fully valued after the rally.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 6.36 points to 1,954.40 after trading between 1,948.05 and 1,968.07 points.

Turnover amounted to 310.97 million shares worth P795.5 million.

The broader all-shares fell 2.54 points to 1,179.26.

Losers outnumbered gainers 46 to 19, while 44 stocks ended unchanged.

The opposition is expected to mount a major protest rally on Monday to call for Ms Arroyo's ousting when she makes her annual State of the Nation Address to Congress.

The President has been under pressure to step down following the opposition's release last month of audiotapes, which they alleged prove she cheated in the May 2004 elections.

Ms Arroyo, however, has denied any wrongdoing and refused to resign.

"Investors have secured their gains ahead of the (Congress) address. More than just concerns over massive protests, they are awaiting to see what the President will say that might sway public opinion in her favor," Jonathan Ravelas of Banco De Oro Universal Bank said.

Ayala Land Inc. was the most active stock, closing up 10 centavos to P8.20. Parent company Ayala Corp. fell P2.50 to P315. *AFP*

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DTI chief pushes new tax measure

Proposal meant to encourage traders to pay taxes in advance

By Michelle V. Remo

NEWLY appointed Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila has sought the help of the business sector in solving the government's fiscal problem by proposing a rediscounting system for the tax payments of large corporations.

Under the proposal, big businesses will be encouraged to issue post-dated checks as payment for their future tax liabilities. The government will then use the checks to secure funds from financial institutions that will, in turn, earn through rediscounting.

Favila said the proposal would lessen the dependency of government on foreign borrowings, whose costs had increased due to the prevailing political mess in the country.

"(In effect) we will be creating a cash flow on future tax liabilities," Favila yesterday told members of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

Favila said he recognized the fact that many taxpayers do not readily comply with their tax obligations because of the perception of widespread corruption in government.

He therefore offered another proposal under which businesses would be urged to spend for public infrastructure projects, like building schools, roads and bridges. In return, they would be given tax credits.

Favila said his proposal would help create a better cash flow position for the government, especially during times when it is having difficulty accessing cheap financing from foreign investors and creditors.

The government has alternative sources of raising revenues, such as privatization, Favila said. But these alternatives usually take time, hampering government's effort to immediately address its cash problems.

"The worst case scenario will be for the government not being able to access affordable financing from international creditors," he said. "So, what we can do is go to big businesses here."

The new DTI chief said he hoped to get a positive response from the business community, adding that his office would ensure regular communication with local and foreign investors to know how government can improve the country's business climate.

"My style of business is to consult with the constituency," Favila said. "I want to make myself accessible (to members of the business sector)."

The new trade and industry chief also mentioned his other programs, like the increase of credit access to small and medium enterprises, in line with the government's agenda to encourage more people to engage in business.

SEC has no jurisdiction in PPI deal

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Alcuin Papa

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has no jurisdiction over the compromise agreement between the pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. and members of the Parents Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition.

According to the SEC, the fate of PPI and its plan holders is now in the hands of the local courts.

Jesus Martinez, SEC commissioner and head of the agency's pre-need industry oversight unit, said that while the agreement came as a welcome development, Pacific Plans still faces a legal dilemma since there is a stay order from a Makati Regional Trial Court suspending all payments to be made by PPI as part of its petition for rehabilitation.

"Unless [the stay order] is withdrawn ... [PPI is] not allowed to make payments," Martinez said.

But according to sources at the PPI, they can always seek an amendment of their original petition for rehabilitation with the local court.

PPI earlier struck a compromise agreement with the 5,000-strong Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), the sources said. The same agreement will apply to all plan holders of PPI.

At present, PPI has 34,000 plan holders.

PPI president Ernesto Garcia said that the company intends to abide by the SEC's requirements with respect to its plan to amend the license of its subsidiary Lifetime Plans Inc.

In exchange for the education plans they are holding, all members of the PEP Coalition will be paid entitlements for their children's tuition, the PPI and PEP said in a joint statement.

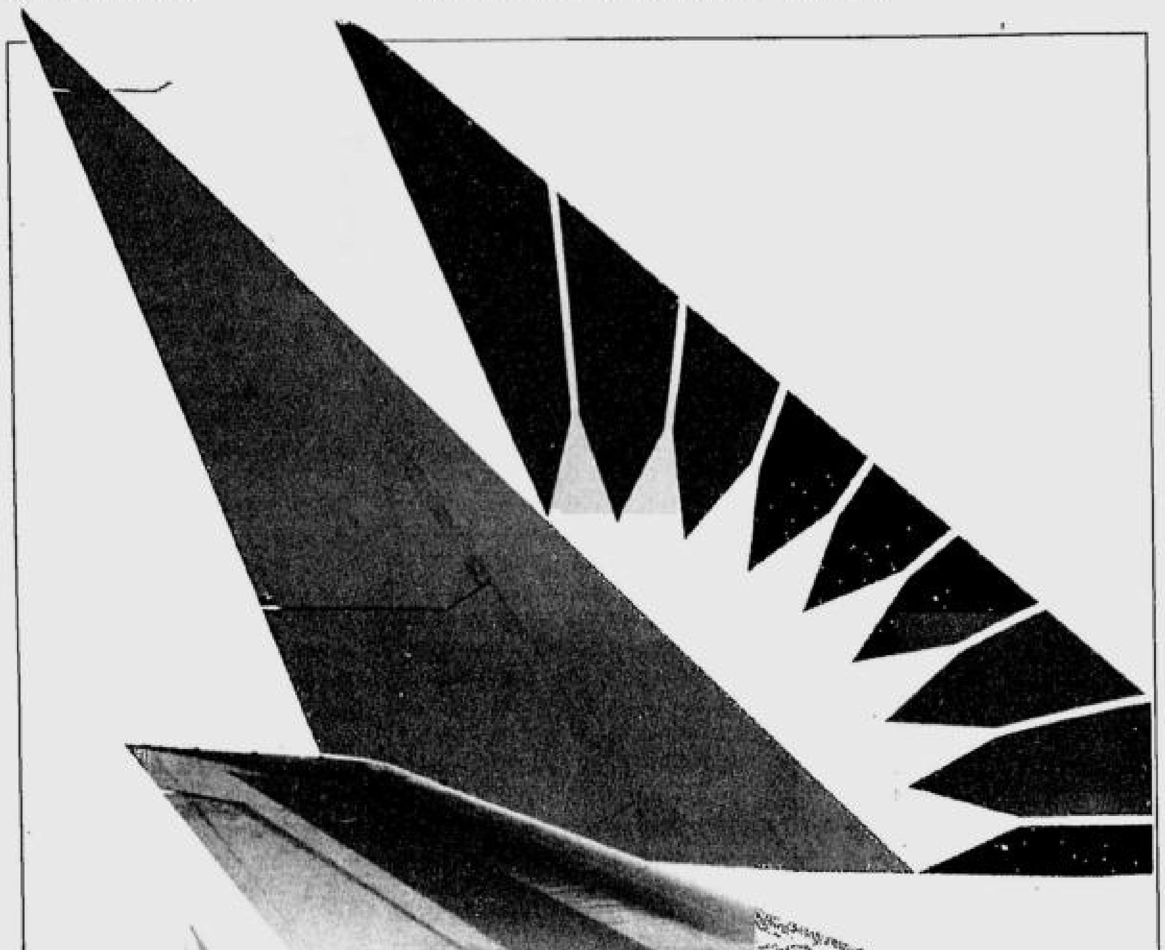
PEP Coalition president Philip Piccio and PPI president Ernesto Garcia said that over the next 30 days, they would explore ways to come up with up to P5 billion to satisfy the claims of holders of traditional or open-ended education plans.

But the two sides had to first settle the valuation of the plans. PPI had offered to pay for the plans according to their original purchase price plus 7 percent interest.

PPI said the breakthrough in negotiations would benefit the company and its policyholders.

But in a statement yesterday, Garcia cautioned all parties, stressing that there is still a lot of work to be done.

"This joint effort takes cognizance and appreciation of the problems besetting the pre-need industry with respect to open-ended educational plans and is directed at capping Pacific Plan's liability ... with the kind help of its affected plan holders," Garcia yesterday said in a statement.



PAL gets CAB nod to hike rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board on Thursday approved the petition of Philippine Airlines to increase its fares on one-way trips to and from the Unites States, Canada and Australia to $37 from $22 on account of unceasing fuel price hikes.

The aviation authority also granted the request of foreign carriers Eva Air, Cathay Pacific Airways, Japan Airlines and Continental Air Micronesia to impose higher fuel surcharges.

The CAB approval is valid for 3 months, after which the airlines would have to submit their fuel surcharge for review. The CAB believes that fare hikes related to fuel have been justified and reasonable.

PAL had just asked the CAB to extend for another three months an April approval to impose higher surcharges on domestic fares.

Local carrier Southeast Asian Airlines had submitted a petition to increase fares for one-way domestic flights between P100 to P250, depending on the destination.

The foreign carriers' additional fuel surcharges range from $2 to $20. Airlines have been filing for additional fare hikes since mid-2004 when prices of aviation turbo first surged to $45 per barrel from $28 per barrel in 2003.

Continuing fuel increases led to periodic petitions for additional fuel surcharges as fuel accounts for about 40 percent of an airline's operating costs.

Also, Seair has asked the CAB to allow it to increase the fuel surcharge within Luzon to P350 from P200, Luzon to Visayas to P470 from P300 and Luzon to Mindanao to P650 from P400.

Seair, which operates smaller aircraft that can land on smaller airports like Caticlan near Boracay, sought a P100-hike to P300 within Visayas, and to P350 within Mindanao. Visayas to Mindanao is P400 from P250.

Gov't urged to raise trade tariffs in next WTO meet

By Christine A. Gaylican

A MULTI-SECTORAL trade organization is urging the Philippine government to raise the tariffs on industrial and agricultural goods being traded according to World Trade Organization rules.

The Fair Trade Alliance said that among the member countries of the WTO in the Asia-Pacific, only the Philippines has an average tariff rate of 7.4 percent, which is very low.

Other Asean countries "have not only higher tariffs, but also maintain various non-tariff barriers, said former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, lead convenor of the Fair Trade Alliance. "The Philippines now has very low tariff [rates] that should be re-calibrated in the next negotiations."

Tañada said that Philippine representatives to the WTO should also resolve conflicting interests of the different industrial sectors in the country before they could take part in the next round of negotiations.

The FTA is a broad coalition pushing for trade and economic reforms in the country.

The country also needs to immediately create a Trade Representative Office that will oversee trade policies and negotiations in the face of global trade talks, Tañada yesterday said during a forum.

The FTA wants the trade representative office to take the lead in Philippine trade negotiations, review trade policies and commitments and identify countries that discriminate against Philippine goods.

TAÑADA

"The creation of the Philippine Trade Representative Office should remedy the problem of having ad hoc arrangements during trade negotiations and the lack of a clear, cohesive and integrated trade and development strategy," Tañada explained.

The office will also make sure that the interests of the local industry and agriculture sectors are well represented.

"The trade representative office will spearhead consultations with the local sectors," he said.

Political jitters still weighing on peso

From page B1

chinery as well as some raw materials, so the impact is not expected to be large," Tetangco said.

But Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the Philippines would benefit from the revaluation since it was a net exporter to China.

"From the standpoint of China, it will make their imports cheaper as opposed to devaluation but since our exports are bigger than theirs to us, the impact is favorable to us," he said.

He said China might still "calibrate" its revaluation in response to global market responses and demands.

With the region's ever-growing foreign exchange reserves, the reluctance of Asian countries to allow their currencies to appreciate was often viewed as a stumbling block to the orderly resolution of the US' ballooning trade deficits.

China, in particular, has become a major target of such criticism, given its large bilateral trade surplus against the United States and large accumulation of foreign reserves over the years.

In a recent policy brief entitled "Coping with Global Imbalances and Asian Currencies," Asian Development Bank economist Cyn-Young Park said a revaluation would make exports of Asian economies to the PRC cheaper, thus positively affecting their trade surpluses, but a reduction in the growth of the PRC's real income would partly constrain its import demand.

The economist said countries with similar endowments as those of the PRC and were producing labor-intensive goods that compete with its products in third-country markets would likely experience an expansion in net exports and an acceleration in the growth of their income. Conversely, countries with complementary endowments and strong bilateral trading links with the PRC would experience a contraction in net exports and slower income growth.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29	29	641,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	365,700
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780	2,150
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	610,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47	47.5	188,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27	132,200
Philippine National Bank	46	48.5	46	48	122,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	12.5	11.5	12.5	130,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2775	2775	2775	2775	750
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	38,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1995	1990	1995	4,740
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	16,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1.02	2,715,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	865	850	850	110
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	17,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	438,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1585	1610	1585	1605	113,010
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	66,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	71,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	3,777,000
Petron Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	352,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	2,305,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	121,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	351,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	31.5	30	30	111,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62.5	64.5	62.5	64.5	302,300
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	98	98	103,790
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	5	5	5	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	320	320	312.5	315	38,950
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	522,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	8,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	140,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	1,410,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	8,154,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,870,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.36	2.42	2.36	2.4	4,568,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.7	1,211,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42	42.5	388,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	210,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,346,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.76	31,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	1,368,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,110,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	3,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	150,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	222	217	220	576,330
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,220,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.94	5,960,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.26	845,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	16,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	117,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	14,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	24,743,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	10,420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.44	2,350,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	5,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	41,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	2,507,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.99	0.99	0.85	0.85	110,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.74	0.9	0.74	0.89	650,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5	4.9	4.9	95,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	7,790,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	18,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	27,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	84,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	1,690,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	3,820,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	30	28.5	29.5	550,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	5,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3	3	3	3	8,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	630,000

	SHARES		VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,308,140		70,528,910.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	83,980,390	....	471,034,710.00
PRO	41,576,000		226,917,980.00
Mining	146,405,500		26,395,700.00
OIL	36,638,000		361,050.00
GRAND TOTALS :	310,908,030		795,238,350.00
	AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	555.60		DOWN 0.92
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,081.79		DOWN 11.34
PRO	716.17		DOWN 1.78
Mining	2,616.64		DOWN 64.21
OIL	2.62		UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00		UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,179.26		DOWN 2.54
Composite	1,954.40		DOWN 6.36

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 46; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 2,372

DISCLOSURES

MANILA Water Co. Inc. will hold an analysts' briefing to discuss second quarter results on July 26, 2 p.m., at the Le Boulevardier, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

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PHILIPPINE Savings Bank reported a net income of P326 million for the first semester, P129 million better than the net income of the same period last year.

***

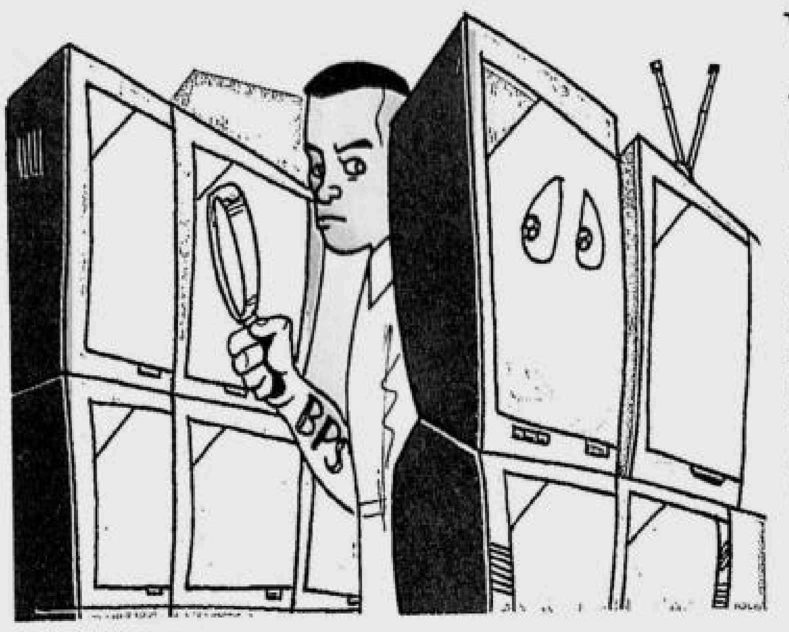
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and its subsidiary ABS-CBN International entered into an affiliation agreement with DIRECTV Inc., a leading provider of direct-to-home satellite system in the United States. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

SEC threatens . . .

From page B1

trust fund had dwindled to P4.7 billion. It said CAP's five trustee banks—Allied Bank, Metrobank, Equitable-PCIBank, Bank of Commerce and Philippine Veterans Bank—executed sworn statements saying that the total trust fund of CAP amounted to P8.4 billion.

"This correction is crucial because one of the alleged reasons for the decision was due to the low level of the trust fund. It must be emphasized that under the rules of the SEC, it is the trustee banks that have exclusive management and control over the trust funds. In spite of our written appeal to correct their impressions, they insisted on using the wrong information in their evaluation of the CAP situation," the CAP official said.



VOLATILE SECTOR

Bad property loans hit 20% in '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONE of every five pesos in loans given by commercial banks to the real estate sector has become past due, making banks cautious about lending to this volatile sector.

Based on a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report yesterday, the sector's past due real estate loans accounted for 20.1 percent of total loans as of end-2004, no significant improvement from the 21 percent ratio at end-2003.

Compared to the end-September level of 20.2 percent last year, the past due ratio at yearend was slightly lower, as the 2.5 percent or P4.7 billion rise in total real estate loans outpaced the 1.6 percent or P600 million increase in past-due loans.

The growth in loans to the real estate sector mirrored the modest 2.6 percent expansion in commercial banks' total loan portfolio in the same year.

Real estate loans accounted for 91.9 percent of the banking sector's total exposure to the property sector, which amounted to P206.8 billion.

The remaining P16.7 billion or 8.1 percent was in the form of investments in securities issued by real estate companies.

The total exposure of commercial banks to the property sector slightly increased at 11.8 percent of total loans from the previous quarter's 11.7 percent, not including inter-bank loans.

Loans extended to the construction and development of real estate properties for commercial purposes, including infrastructure projects held a vast share of P157 billion or 82.6 percent of total while the remaining P33 billion or 17.4 percent was granted for the acquisition of residential units by individual homeowners or borrowers.

Investment in commercial papers issued by and in equities of real estate companies slightly increased by one percent to P16.7 billion from P16.6 billion last quarter.

On a year-on-year basis, this represented a robust 46.3 percent rise from P11.4 billion.

DTI tightens monitoring of 14-29-inch TV sets

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry, through the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), has started monitoring television sets in the market to ensure that these comply with the BPS Product Certification Mark Scheme.

Under the scheme, imported and locally produced black and white and color TV sets with sizes ranging from 14-29 inches have to bear the BPS product certification seal to ensure their safety and reliability.

This means that only TV sets that have the Philippine Standard (PS) or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) mark can be sold or distributed in the market.

The seal, BPS director Jesus Motoomull said, ensured that users of the TV sets would not suffer from untoward incidents such as electric shock, excessive exposure to radiation and fire due to component failure, bad connection or insulation breakdown of substandard TV sets.

Before a seal is issued, locally made and imported TV sets have to go through tests and inspection at the BPS Testing Center and Solid Laguna Corp. Testing Laboratory, a BPS-accredited laboratory.

Only those that pass the battery of tests will be issued a PS or an ICC seal.

Before the BPS started its monitoring activities last July 1, however, the Philippine Appliance Industry Association sought an exemption for old and phased-out TV models from the monitoring.

Under Memorandum Circular No. 54, the BPS said manufacturers and importers of old or phased-out TV set models should submit an inventory of the models distributed before the monitoring started.

Manufacturers and importers have up to the end of the year to dispose of the TV set models listed in this inventory.

By next year, all TV sets, whether old, phased-out or current models, that do not have the required PS or ICC mark will be confiscated.

Administrative charges will likewise be slapped on the manufacturers or importers of such products.

"If the DTI market monitoring team finds uncertified old-model TV sets being sold in the market, the retailers have to present evidence that these products were delivered before the deadline and that these were included in the inventory submitted to the bureau," Motoomull said.

New BOC chief unveils anti-smuggling tack

By Michelle V. Remo

NEWLY appointed Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo has crafted a new strategy to detect smuggled goods even before they reach the country's ports.

"What happens is we allow them to enter our country. What we will do now is bring the battle before they reach our territory," Arevalo said in a press conference before members of the Manila Overseas Press Club yesterday.

Under his strategy, the Bureau of Customs would require international shipping lines to submit import manifests 12 hours before the arrival of shipment.

Under the old practice, shipping lines are allowed to submit import manifests as late as five days after arrival.

He said that by knowing beforehand what should legally enter the country's ports, Customs officials would have comparative data at hand when inspecting shipments that enter the country's ports, thus making audit easier.

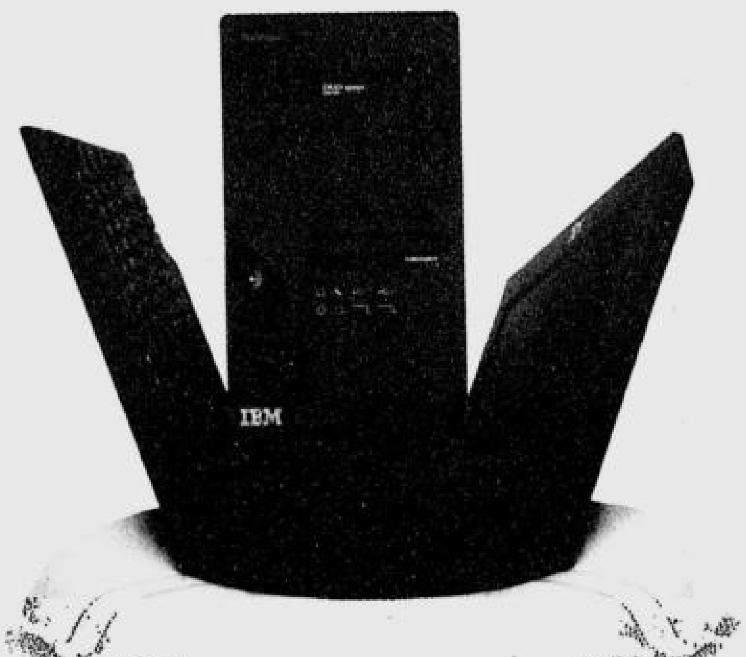
Arevalo also said the BOC was working on an agreement with the US Embassy on providing information on shipments coming from the United States.

Another anti-smuggling measure that Arevalo was looking into was to have an electronic database on international standards of valuation of various products exported to the Philippines.

He said this would help address problems on under-valuation, which the BOC considers another major headache following smuggling.

"This (database) will give us basis to check the (accuracy) of the values declared by importers," he said.

Arevalo is a former deputy commissioner for information systems of the BOC.



ThinkCentre recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

intel inside pentium 4

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ThinkCentre A50
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
IBM Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
SYSTEM FEATURES
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Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR, 40GB hard drive
Intel® Extreme Graphics 2
PhP47,695 (8175PAM)

ThinkCentre A51
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
IBM Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.93GHz 533 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR, 80GB hard drive
Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator 900
PhP46,695 (8123KAB)

ThinkPad X40
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
Active Protection System & Rescue and Recovery™
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor LV 758 (1.5GHz)
Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR SDRAM, 40GB hard drive
PhP119,295 (2371J6A)

OPTIONS:
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Group helps preserve RP rainforests

by Tessa R. Salazar

"WHENEVER we send experts, biologists here, they come back discovering new species never before described."

Thus declared Claus Peter Hutter of the European Nature Heritage Fund, or Euronatur, during one of his periodic visits to a Leyte rainforest last month. He said the list of species endemic to the area was growing longer.

But he warned that the unique natural collection in this ecological system that took thousands of years to evolve could be destroyed in just a matter of weeks, even days.

The warning is not without basis, as only about seven percent of the original rainforest cover in the country exists, observed other Euronatur members.

"Many of these species will soon be gone forever if the destruction of virgin forests continues, and if slopes threatened by erosion are not restored as quickly as possible," Hutter told the INQUIRER.

Ecologically isolated

Hutter describes the Philippine archipelago as ecologically "isolated," with no exchange of species with the Asian and other continents occurring for thousands of years since the last land bridge linking the islands to the Asian mainland were submerged during the end of the Ice Age. During this isolation phase, plants and animals in the islands evolved on their own.

"This explains why a lot of endemic species exist here," Hutter said.

The Philippines is among 17 of the world's megabiodiversity countries that shelter up to 70 percent of all known animal and plant species.

Demo farms

Since 1990, the Leyte State University in Baybay, Leyte, the Euronatur Foundation and the University of Hohenheim in Germany have developed nearly 11,000 hectares of rainforests and demonstration farms nationwide to encourage sustainable agriculture practices.

Hutter, Professors Friedhelm Goltenboth and Werner Muhlbauer (Hohenheim University) and Leyte State University president Paciencia Milan became partners with the help from corporate sponsors like DaimlerChrysler, Deutsche Lufthansa and the German Investment and Development Co.

One of the rainforestation farming systems that was put up is an abaca plantation that supplies abaca fibers for DaimlerChrysler car parts.

More jobs

For 15 years, the team has worked on projects that stop the effects of soil erosion and protect the seashores, and these have resulted in the conservation of a number of coral reefs and even additional jobs for Leyteños. The projects have also resulted in the protection of the province's freshwater sources.

Leyte's combination of ecology forestry and sustainable agriculture has spun off other projects among scientists and biologists from the Philippines and Germany. These include the protection and conservation of coral reefs in the four small islands surrounding Leyte, the monitoring of water resources in Leyte, and a Visayas-wide program called "Save the Pawikans."

The team has also initiated the establishment of a solar-powered marine observation area in Leyte where scientists could gather and study their data.

'Imported' trees

Milan said it is important to keep in mind that in rainforestation projects, "imported" trees from other areas might not necessarily help the local ecosystem.

A TEAM of local and international experts have developed nearly 11,000 hectares of rainforests and demonstration farms nationwide.

"Native trees support wildlife. If you see mahogany and gmelina [which are not 'native' to the area], no wildlife will nestle there," she explained.

"Instead of planting exotic trees such as gmelina, ipil-ipil and mahogany, we use molave, apitong, lauan and yakal," she said.

With the right trees at the right place, animal species such as the Philippine tarsier, hornbill, flying lemur and flying fox have come back to live in the restored areas.

"It's a real, new cycle of life," Hutter said.

As if on cue, a foot-long gecko crawled from the ceiling of Leyte State University guest house just above where Hutter was speaking.

Pointing to the lizard, Hutter gushed, "That's a real gecko. It's harmless."

He then mimicked the gecko's familiar call from where it got its name, "Gecko! Gecko!"

Year's best in science

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the highest advisory body of its kind in the country, held its annual meeting at the Manila Hotel. This year's theme was "Philippine Agriculture 2020: A Strategy for Alleviating Poverty, Food Security, Competitiveness and Sustainability." NAST focused on agriculture as "market-driven, private sector-led, with the government facilitating the institutionalization of macro and sectoral policies, infrastructure development, and avenues for convergence via good governance."

How was this achieved? The Agriculture Sciences Division, chaired by Academicians Teodulo Topacio Jr. and Emil Javier, produced a draft strategy based on the Medium-Term Development Plan that was validated through various consultations with stakeholders. Rounding out our agriculture experts were National Scientists Benito Vergara and Dolores Ramirez, Academicians Ramon Barba, Romulo Davide, Ricardo Lantican, Faustino Orillo, Ruben Villareal, Leopoldo Castillo and Rafael Guerrero III.

However, issues in other scientific fields were not forgotten in the plenary and poster sessions. Moreover, the much-awaited awarding of the best in science for the past year saw a new crop of young and mature researchers ingeniously using their skills and talents for the betterment of our nation.

Newest Academician

Foremost among this year's awardees was Dr. Caesar Saloma, our newest Academician. A full professor at the National Institute of Physics in the University of the Philippines at Diliman, Saloma obtained all his academic degrees from the same institution. His research interests are broad, including biological and statistical physics, optical instrumentation, laser microscopy and microscope design, optical beam propagation and light interaction with matter, computational physics, information processing and signal recovery and complex adaptive systems.

Saloma has published more than 80 articles in prestigious journals around the world, and has successfully mentored several doctoral and masteral students, whom the Philippines sorely needs, as we only have less than 100 Physics Ph.Ds today.

Saloma is also internationally recognized. In October 2003, he and his research team published an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA which involved behavior during escapes. In today's fragmented world, the timeliness of the article ensured that it was featured in popular media such as New Scientist, Nature Science News Update, Wired, BBC News Radio, and Spektrum Der Wissenschaft.

The article "investigated the dynamics of escape panic using a computational model whose predictions were compared with real world experiments involving mice that were induced to escape from a pool of water."

For initiating high-level optic research in our country, Saloma was also awarded the Galileo Galilei award by the International Commission for Optics in 2004. He was the youngest and the first Asean scientist to receive this award since it was first given in 1994.

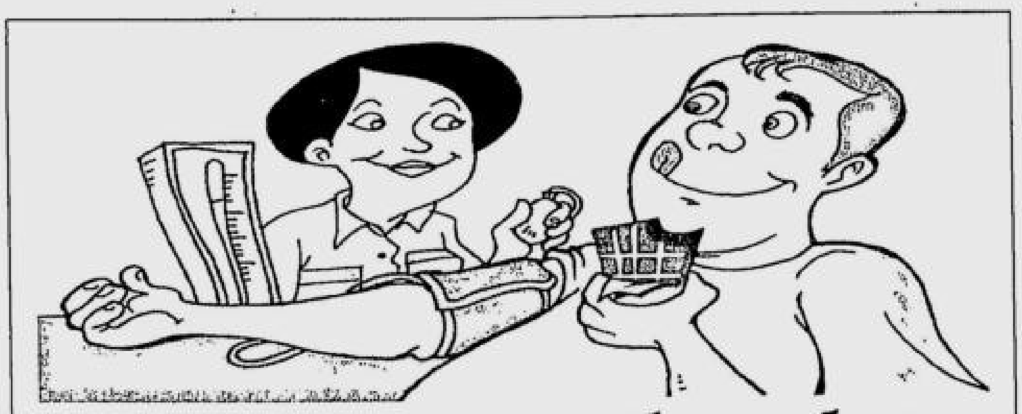
Optics

Saloma's young colleague, Dr. Vincent Ricardo M. Daria, bagged the NAST-Third World Academy of Science award for his work in optics, signal processing and microscopy. Aside from working in the Philippines, Daria also worked for a while in Denmark.

He reflects: "In 2001, I got accepted as a scientist at the Rise National Laboratory in Denmark and carried out studies based on dynamic programming of optical phase. The vast applications of the technique allowed us to diversify our research. The success of our scientific contributions enabled Dr. Jesper Gluckstad and myself to engage in projects with other leading research groups, and our technology has been featured in news and magazines for the general readership in Europe."

Dr. Pag-asa D. Gaspillo, a chemical engineer at De La Salle University, received the Hugh Greenwood Environmental Science Award. Her research revolves around water and wastewater management, and she tirelessly searches for ways to preserve the quality of our water resources and minimize their depletion. Using local materials, she has also designed a water treatment facility for use in the home.

Dr. Jaime C. Montoya of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, concentrates on battling tuberculosis. He has worked to identify the causes of this disease and develop possible vaccines, and has also spearheaded standards of care and policy management.



Yummy news: Chocolates are good for your BP

WASHINGTON—At last, there may be a good reason to indulge in a daily chocolate bar binge—it might be good for your blood pressure.

New research published by the American Heart Association on Tuesday said a daily bar-sized helping of dark chocolate could lower blood pressure and improve insulin resistance.

"Previous studies suggest flavonoid-rich foods, including fruits, vegetables, tea, red wine and chocolate, might offer cardiovascular benefits," said the study's author Dr. Jeffrey Blumberg.

"But this is one of the first clinical trials to look specifically at dark chocolate's effect on lowering blood pressure among people with hypertension," said the report in Hypertension: Journal of the American Heart Association.

Natural antioxidants

Flavonoids are natural antioxidants found in many foods and are found in plants.

Blumberg cautioned, however, that the study did not amount to a green light to chow down on chocolate; it simply showed that certain kinds of dark chocolate could benefit vascular function and glucose sensitivity.

Research was conducted on 10 men and 10 women all of whom had hypertension, under controlled blood pressure conditions, at the University of L'Aquila in Italy.

"It is important to note that the dark chocolate we used had a high level of flavonoids," Blumberg said.

"Most Americans eat milk chocolate, which has a low amount of these compounds." *AFP*

Studies say aspirin may protect men from cancer but not women

CHICAGO—Men who took aspirin over five years slightly lowered their risk for prostate cancer, but women who took low doses over 10 years didn't reduce their risk of cancer, two separate studies indicate.

The conflicting results don't help settle the debate about whether aspirin and similar anti-inflammatory medicines could be used to prevent cancer. Doctors familiar with the research think different study designs and aspirin doses explain the contrasting findings.

Higher doses

The Women's Health Study, involving nearly 40,000 participants, is among the longest aspirin-cancer studies to date and used doses a little higher than in baby aspirin, taken every other day. It found no effect on lymphoma, colorectal, breast and several other cancers, although results for lung cancer were less conclusive.

Those results contradict several smaller, less rigorous studies that in many cases used higher, more frequent doses.

Men's study

In the men's study, American Cancer Society researchers followed 70,144 men over nine years and asked about their use of aspirin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS).

Men who took standard 325-mg doses of those medicines daily for at least five years were about 18 percent less likely to get prostate cancer than men who used aspirin occasionally or for a shorter duration.

That kind of observational study can't rule out that men who decided to take aspirin were generally healthier and less likely to get cancer to begin with, said Dr. Julie Buring of Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, lead researcher for the Women's Health Study.

But she said her study can't rule out whether higher aspirin doses taken daily would protect women against cancer, too.

Anti-inflammatory effects

Researchers have theorized that aspirin's anti-inflammatory effects might protect against cancers in which inflammation is thought to play a role, chiefly colorectal cancer but potentially also prostate and breast cancers, said American Cancer Society epidemiologist Eric Jacobs, lead author of the aspirin-prostate cancer study.

Still, Jacobs noted, "The American Cancer Society doesn't recommend that men or women start taking aspirin or any other NSAIDS to prevent cancer."

They can cause serious side effects, and there's inadequate evidence about potential cancer-fighting benefits, the cancer society says.

Earlier this year results from the same women's study suggested that low-dose aspirin every other day reduced the risk of strokes, but not heart attacks—findings opposite of what has been found in men. *AP*

Expert raises concern about rising stroke, heart attack cases

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Charles E. Buban

THE NUMBER of people dying of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in the region is increasing and is causing an enormous economic burden to the poor segment of the population where the disease generally strikes.

This was the assessment of a doctor who is leading a campaign to raise public awareness on the prevention and treatment of atherothrombosis, the common thread linking heart attack, stroke, peripheral arterial disease and other types of CVDs.

"Atherothrombosis is responsible for more than 28 percent of deaths worldwide and its prevalence is steadily increasing, as indicated by the sharp increases in heart attack and stroke rates," said Dr. Francisco Dalangin, interventional cardiologist at St. Luke's Medical Center.

'Sobering' statistics

Dalangin said that although the prevalence of atherothrombosis in the Philippines is unknown, heart attack and stroke have become the top causes of death, accounting for more than 25 percent of all deaths in the country.

"Sobering statistics, aren't they? But their purpose isn't to scare anyone. They're to make each one of us fight against these leading killers," said Dalangin during the "Looking A.T. (atherothrombosis) Tomorrow" lecture series sponsored by Sanofi-Synthelabo.

He said Filipinos can still turn these statistics around with few simple measures that can reduce one's risk of heart disease and increase the chances of a longer, healthier life.

"But first, we need to understand what atherothrombosis is," said Dalangin.

Atherothrombosis starts when a blood clot forms on a plaque (consisting of fatty acids and cholesterol, calcium and other materials) that detaches from the wall of a blood vessel.

"The detached plaque, and the subsequent development of a clot, travels through the bloodstream and can cause partial or complete blockage of an artery in various parts of the body," said Dalangin.

When a vessel in the heart is partially or completely blocked by a clot, the result can be a heart attack.

"In the brain, the same process can cause a stroke, while elsewhere in the body, this process can lead to reduction or blockage of blood flow in the arteries of the legs—a condition known as peripheral arterial disease, and a significant risk factor for heart attack or stroke," he said.

Progressive process

Dalangin said atherothrombosis begins with the buildup of plaque in the walls of arteries—known as atheroschlerosis, which is a progressive process that develops very slowly over many years.

"Symptoms are not usually identified until one is in his mid-life, when the arteries are already calcified or hardened and prone to bleeding, clot formation and rupture," he said.

Although the hardening of the arteries is more common in the elderly, the doctor stressed that it is not an inevitable result of aging.

"Atherosclerosis is a disease that develops over several decades. Risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, elevated lipids in the bloodstream, and diabetes can promote its development. The presence of fatty streaks in the arteries and fibrous plaques, which can be found in individuals in their teens and 20s, is also an indicator of risk," said Dalangin.

Controlling 3 factors

Dalangin said that while obesity and being overweight, genetics, stress and lack of regular exercise play a role in increasing one's chances of having a heart attack or stroke, controlling the three main risk factors—smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels—significantly reduces the possibility.

Sometimes, he said, lifestyle modification is not enough for some people, especially those who are at high risk, so it should be supplemented with pharmacological therapies if a significant risk reduction is to be achieved.

"Those who are at high risk for developing serious complications are often advised to be on a continuous, daily medication of anticoagulant [blood-thinning] drugs like aspirin and antiplatelet drugs [like clopidogrel] to prevent the development of harmful blood clots," he said.

BEST SCIENCE COLUMNIST Inquirer's Queena Lee-Chua holds the special citation award for best Science and Technology columnist given during the National Science and Technology Week awarding and closing ceremonies at the Philippine Trade and Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Her column, Eureka!, appears in this section every Saturday.

Spotting drug addiction in the family

AS WITH A NUMBER of other juvenile problems, family members are usually the last to know that a son, daughter or sibling is hooked on drugs. Unless the youngster fails random drug testing at his school, a young person experimenting with prohibited substances will always attempt to hide his habit.

After 13 years of dealing with juvenile drug users, Martin Infante, founder and president of Self Enhancement for Life Foundation (SELF), discloses that a number of telltale signs should serve to warn parents of this serious situation.

Telltale signs

The primary indicator of drug use is loss of focus or interest in studies or work, he says. Other symptoms include lying and manipulative behavior, abnormal schedules, low frustration tolerance, impulsiveness and isolation from the family. In more advanced cases, other indicators include valuables getting lost at home, unwholesome and troubled friends, and even violent behavior on the part of the user.

"When a child exhibits a number of these symptoms, seek help," Infante recommends. While parents may hold back in the hope that they could be wrong in their assessment, the better option is to face the problem even if it is only a potential one. Find out all you can about addiction, he says. Usually, a parent's suspicion or gut-feel is right. And even if the suspicion turns out to be unfounded, the family gains from knowing about this social disease.

"The best way to confront the problem is head on," he stresses. Involving the family in finding ways to deal with addiction is ideal. However, even if only one parent confronts the problem a solution can be found.

Making a big issue

It is important that parents make a big issue out of a developing drug problem. "Have the child tested for drugs," says Infante. Drug test kits are available at pharmaceutical suppliers or at drug rehab centers. He also suggests finding out who among the youngster's friends are users so that parents can be forewarned.

"When parents try to keep the habit hush-hush, they may only be worsening the situation and buying into the manipulative expectations of the young offender. Forcing it out into the open compels the user to deal with the problem," he says.

In addition to exposing the problem, parents need to set up new systems within the family that will inhibit any more use and experimentation with the substances. Agreements must be made between parents and their children to track and place limits on their activities and movements, says Liza Tumangday, SELF's deputy executive director. Clear consequences to the violation of these agreements and other house rules must be implemented.

To help the family evaluate the extent of the drug problem, SELF offers a 20-day assessment/awakening program where the young offender undergoes psychological tests, basic psychiatric assessments and various therapeutic sessions. The program aims to identify how substance abuse has affected the client's physical, mental, emotional, social and psychological well-being.

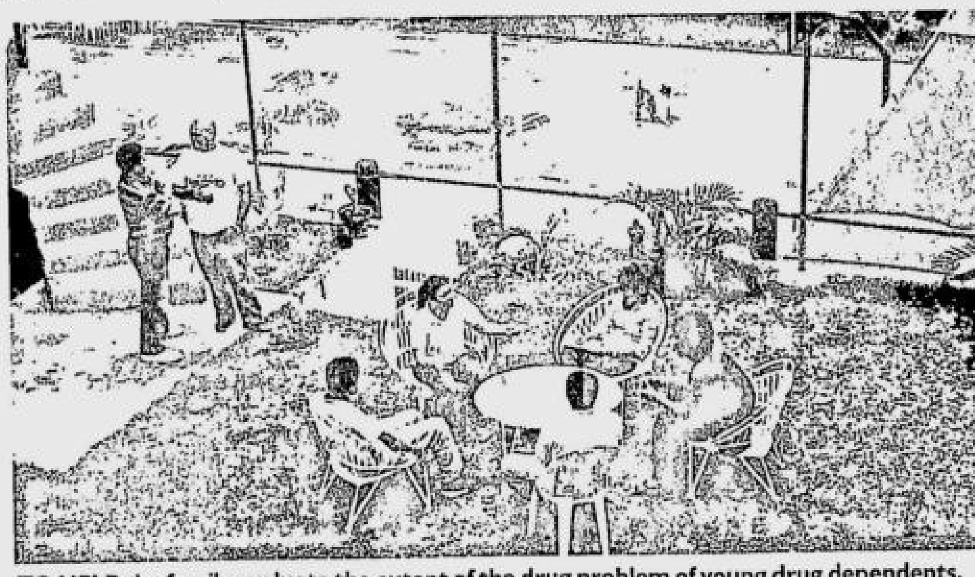
Best treatment approach

"There are some initial ways to address the drug taking problem without needing to face the full spectrum of rehab," Infante says. In some cases, a short program or home-based treatment approach may be suggested. In other cases, however, SELF may need to recommend that the client be committed to its Therapeutic Community (TC) program.

Known as one of the best treatment approaches in the world, TC is a behavior shaping program that incorporates a confrontative method of intervention geared toward the formation of effective habits that fend off the drug lifestyle. Through specially formulated Behavior Shaping Tools, SELF is able to motivate its clients to correct deviant attitudes prominent in the drug culture.

For parents whose kids are already in deep trouble, is it too late? No, Infante says. Whether the youngster is experimenting or has already progressed to full-blown addiction, by simply addressing the problem, you're halfway home.

SELF runs a drug treatment and rehabilitation facility called Taal View House in Talisay, Batangas which is accredited by the Department of Health. For call 807-4094 or 809-3491, or e-mail at self@pldtdsl.net, or visit www.selftc.com.



TO HELP the family evaluate the extent of the drug problem of young drug dependents, SELF offers a novel 20-day Assessment/ Awakening Program in its Talisay facility.

RP invention wins international award

AN INEXPENSIVE and efficient biogas digester, popularly known as the Philippine BioDigester, won a Global 100 Eco-Tech Award in the Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

It was designed by Gerardo P. Baron, a mechanical engineer and poultry farmer from La Paz, Tarlac.

Baron built these compact digesters using farm wastes. His main goal was to produce a cheap cooking fuel that rural households could use instead of LPG and forest-depleting firewood.

Biogas has been used for decades in other countries but has not been fully utilized in the Philippines.

Baron's BioDigester produces a daily average of 1,000 liters of biogas a day from a weekly input of 50 liters of chicken manure. This amount of biogas is more than enough to meet the cooking needs of an average Filipino family.

Baron plans to use the award money ($10,000) for continuing research (which includes biogas systems that can produce vast amounts of electricity) and building demonstration units to showcase biogas production.

SciScope

First in the Philippines

MED Express Drugstore, the only drugstore in the Philippines that offers delivery service, drive-thru pickup lane and professional medication counseling from licensed pharmacists, now opens branches on Ortigas Avenue and Mindanao Avenue as well as in Fil-Invest Alabang.

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Juicing secret of rejuvenation

TODAY, any person not familiar with the nutritional and recuperative value of the juices of fresh vegetable, fruit, grass and herb is disadvantaged. Fruit juices are the cleansers of the human system.

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Juices don't need to be digested, it goes straight into the small intestines where it is assimilated and absorbed into the bloodstream. It takes less than 20 minutes to prepare and just seconds to drink but the benefits can be felt within minutes flooding your body with all the nutrients it needs. This is why juicing is considered a panacea for good health.

Low-speed (80 rpm) juice extractors, creates living juice, up to 60 percent richer in nutrients than high-speed (7,000–10,000) juicers. For more information on low-speed juicers please call 373-7397 and 99 or e-mail matstone@iajcorp.com.

Managing diabetes

WTH THE SURGE of new anti-diabetic drugs and therapies, treatment regimens have become more complicated and confusing, leading many diabetics to veer from their strict routine from time to time. Diabetics are now asking: Is there a simple but effective approach?

Dr. Augusto Litonjua, one of the country's diabetes experts and president of the Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation, says nothing can be simple with a complex disease like diabetes, although the illness can easily start with two Ks: *katakawan* (gluttony) and *katamaran* (laziness). This is why Dr. Litonjua and the PCDEF are advocating exercise, right diet and lifestyle changes along with disciplined intake of medicines in managing diabetes, during the Diabetes Awareness Week, scheduled this year on July 25-31.

The PCDEF, with the support and participation of diabetes patients, doctors and pharmaceutical companies like Servier Philippines Inc., is back on the road to educate the public on how to prevent diabetes and its complications, to promote healthy living and to conduct mass diabetes screenings in selected parts of the country.

Dr. Litonjua is optimistic about the future of diabetes management. He cites several developments abroad, including the breakthrough method of encapsulating beta cells. Beta cells are responsible for producing insulin in the pancreas.

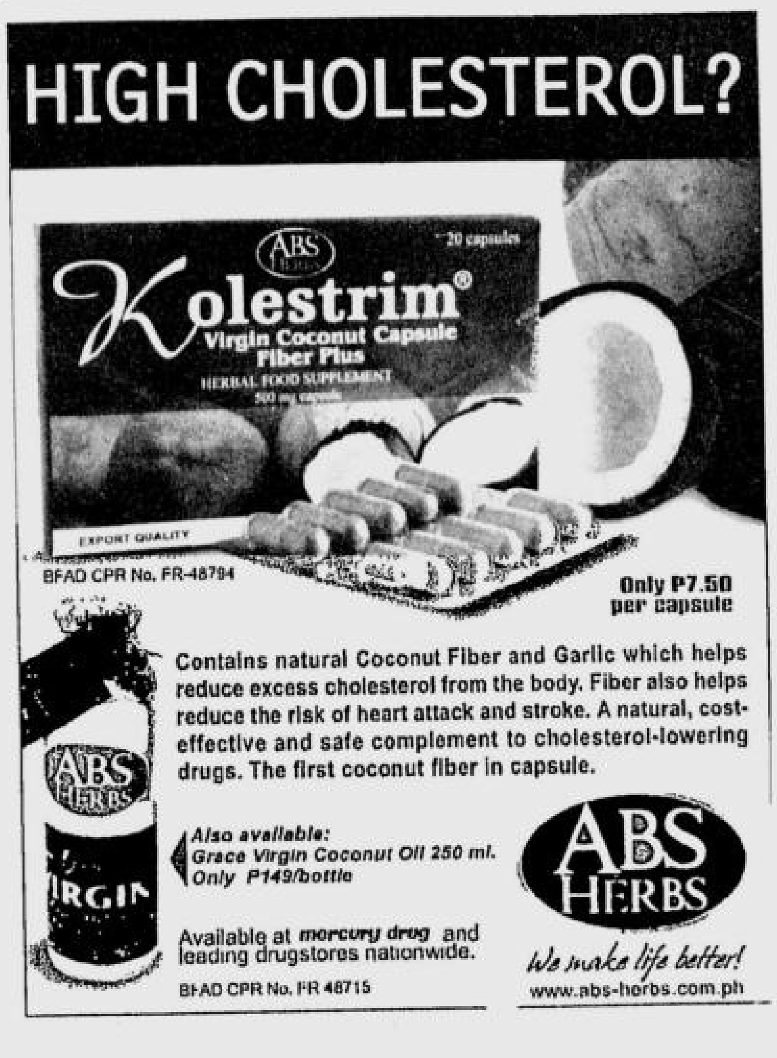
Next best for type 2 diabetes

VARIOUS medicinal herbs from India, China and Japan are traditionally used for control of blood sugar level. The most effective herbal constituent seems to be corosolic acid of which the leaves of Philippine *banaba* contains rich amount.

The same goodness of corosolic acid extract found on *banaba* leaves is available in the Philippines through one of Better Herbs' herbal food supplement variant. To make a potent formulation, *ampalaya*—another herb traditionally used and clinically proven to regulate blood sugar—was added.

In numerous studies, at least three different groups of constituents found in all parts of *ampalaya* (bitter melon) have shown hypoglycemic (blood sugar-lowering) properties or other actions of potential benefit against diabetes mellitus. These chemicals that lower blood sugar include a mixture of steroidal saponins known as charantins, insulin-like peptides and alkaloids.

Better Herbs Inc. combines the power of two of the most widely researched herbal extracts that can help control blood sugar—*banaba* leaves and *ampalaya* fruit —in its product Better Herbs' Banaba-Ampalaya. At 750 mg per tablet, it is the most affordable herbal supplement for type 2 diabetics on a per mg basis. It is available at Mercury Drug, Watsons, Emmaflor Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide. For more information, text 0918-9349347 or call 723-4376 and 721-4376.



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HUMPS, BOLITAS
COMPLETE LABORATORY
#55 New York St.
Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. No. 440-1865
Mon to Sat 9-6pm

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

TAX/BKPG svcs #0922330675

ARCHITECTS

AUTOCAD DRAFTING
P 1200 PER SHEET
9382140 / 09172408458

COSMETOLOGY

WHITENING CAPS P1500 PINK Nips / Lips /Cheeks Cream P800 09189235216

MASSAGE

02-3233269 BODYWORKS

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)6364794

BEAUTIE'S MASSAGE
MLA:8857973 CEBU: (032) 2562187

BLUE HOUSE
780-3339

BOY'S MASSAGE
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Candy 09212085309

COMPLETE WHOLE BODY MASSAGE 8238456. 09179723043

GIRL MASSAGE
719-7066

+ULTIMUS +
410-7326 • 0928-7550888
1143-I Del Monte Avenue
corner West Avenue, QC

IST CLASS MASSAGE
534-6952 • 0920-8684000

JV MALE MASSEUR 09215687501

Karisma 4215996

MANHUNT REFLEX
720 EDSA QC 4397859

MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

★★ Mr EARTH SPA ★★
123B Kamuning rd QC 4102182

OASIS MASSAGE
ALABANG ZAPOTE RD. YOUNG & PRETTY THARAPIST. CALL HAYDZ @ 09275976360

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msgo Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

• Edward 7289285 09194267058

★ FEELS GOOD 4127758 ★

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

REFLEXOLOGY

Reflex 0921-3473037

WAYNE, PT 09225373765

TUTORIAL LESSONS

ACADEMICS/REVIEW 8833671

MISCELLANEOUS

LAYOUT DESIGN
leaflets, artwork, invitations, etc.
0917-3789333

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Best Maid Yaya Cook 995-7034

Best maids aa yaya 4547542

Direct Maids Yaya Driver 7289060

EXP MAIDS w/ NBI 4398468

Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947

H'MAID YAYA COOK 8957507

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Trusted Maids Yaya Midwife 7572089

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IVYLANA MAIDS 4335931 YAYA 4331431

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09163416775

Lipat 6817623 ★ 6817136

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★ LA3,648 Comml Main Road P9,500/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

CAMELLA ALABANG 180m² P3M Neg. 09216140964

LAS PINAS

P1.1M 2STRY 2BR 8054686

MAKATI

1.2-11M C5 nr Fort Condo, Lots, H/L 10%DP LIPAT AGAD or 3yrs 0%Int 2-5BR nr McKinleyHills 0917-8313226

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3 645M up 8903461 loc 32-34

PARANAQUE

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No DP 26T/mo 0927 2805153

PASIG

GREENPARK nr Mall/Lrt/3BR 2.2M 20%dp: 0917-851-1193

QUEZON CITY

2 CONC HSE CUBAO 9122194

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Available thru installment & Pag IBIG

Casimiro
Baytown VILLAGE
HABAY, BACOOR, CAVITE

FOR AS LOW AS P 9,918 A MONTH
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DEVELOPER: Casimiro Development CORPORATION
MARKETING MANAGER: Forte Realty CORPORATION www.forterealty.com
HLURB LTS No. 06206 - R4A - 03 - 08

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

CORINTHIAN/GRN MEADOWS 600-1,400m² NICE WELL MAINTAINED HSE 4-7 RMS P38M-45M 8896475 ; 4796

GREENMEADOWS 5BR 5TB Den big garden 805sqm Call 638-0168 / 69 Mrs Papa

GREENMEADOWS
5BR 5TB big garden 805m²
30M neg 6380168/69 Mrs Papa

GREENMEADOWS
LA840m², 2STY, FA500m² 5BR, 5TB NEWLY RENOVATED, GARDEN
HORSESHOE VILL.
LA1370m², 2STY+GUEST HSE FA600m² POOL WIDE GARDEN 6471240•4395075•0917-5312376

•KAMIAS #60 K-6 cor K-I• 9210255 9219967 9209822

KAMUNING QC P4.5M Bnew 3sty thse 4br5tb #60K2nd Bungalow 4BR 3TB 7242629•4352186•4127311

New Mla FA450m² 6453731

Nice 2sty 4BR 3TB family rm nr Ateneo,UP 5M cash/terms 931-9452/0920-9218422

Nr Ateneo 4.8M &up 6453731

P4.2M LA300SQM
FA170sqm 2-Sty 3BR 2TB Novaliches Near SM Fairview
ZIG • 0920-6296740
Nonoy • 0910-3156126

RIZAL

Mira Verde Homes Antipolo
P558T-868T
Thru Pag-ibig 0917-3258805

CAVITE

MOLINO 500k 09187141462

Nr SM Dasma 681K 5208410

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr D'Fort
Mktl 1-4br 10% DP Move In Pag-ibig Ok 13T/mo 09279256243

1.2M Nr Fort & Mktl Condo RFO 13T/mo 2br 0928-2473987

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

P1.3M nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
15K M/A 10%DP to Move-In
Pls. call (0920) 236-0929

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BNEW * S/1/2 * RFO
5667 Ampere St. Palaran
Makati *NR. CSB, ST.SCHO
T#844-8760/ 0917-5409656

Makati/Mla RFO CONDO BNEW
Sale/ Rent 09176266516

NEW CONDO NEAR MAKATI RFO 2-4BR (1.3M) 10%DP MOVE-IN/AVAIL PROMO UP TO 26% DISCOUNT 09273544721

ORIENTAL GARDENS
Std.123Br 33-223sqm 2M & up
www.orientalgardenstower.com
5242760/09178248178Edwin

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m² 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.965M, 8903461 loc 32-34

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

PEARL OF THE ORIENT
NR US EMBASSY GOOD INVESTMENT & Residences 0% Interest for 3 YRS (02) 446-8037/0921-7603930

Pre-Sell Roxas Blvd 2007 No DP 40K/mo. or 20%DP 23K/mo. 0920-9602940 Bay Garden

MANDALUYONG

RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L, OFFICE UNITS (Sale/Rent)09192189817

RUSH SALE WACK2 TWIN TOWERS 3 BEDRMS, NICE VIEW, 145 SQ.M., 1 PRKING Php 5.5M CP#09184762278

MARIKINA

• GREENHEIGHTS •
P1.8M 3BR 09272392071

MRKNA 1-2-3 0917-8002327

QUEZON CITY

1BR 2TB 70SQM PARKING SLOT ROSEMONT CONDO PANAY ST. QC P3.8M 8926181

4BR w/grge Sikatuna Vil nr UP Ateneo Glori-Mart 9215328 6582410 09166496838

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA LA116 FA236 5.5M 6341212

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

TEACHERS VILLAGE
P 3.5M, 2car grge,4BR,4T&B
439-1995 0920-9020850

SAN JUAN

Condo Valencia Hills Blg 3BR 3TB Pkg P5.8M 09176281921

L. MENCIAS NR. P. GUEVARRA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.645M up Tel 8903461

T'Hse nr. G'Hills Nu Renov Blg 4BR 3TB P5.8M 09176281921

APARTMENT

CAVITE

3 UNITS DIRECT BUYER (0917)624-3900 or (0917)623-3900 REMVELLE SAGANA ST BACOOR CAVITE

LOT

MARIKINA

SSS Vill. 1578m² 634-1212

PARANAQUE

100&230m² In-Hse Financing nr Rodriguez St. Moonwalk 0920-654-0954

QUEZON CITY

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

RIZAL

Vill East 204m² 6453731

LOT

OTHER AREAS

TAGAYTAY LOTS AND H&L w/CLUB & GOLF MEMBERSHIP 300 to 700sqm CASH OR TERMS 5YRS INTEREST FREE (FOR LOTS ONLY)
BEACH LOTS
w/CLUB & GOLF MEMBERSHIP 500 to 1000sqm CASH OR TERMS
FARM LOTS
w/AMENITIES & FACILITIES 1000 to 2000sqm CASH OR TERMS FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 5361776 ; 09178994176

LAGUNA

192m². In-Hse Financing. Southpeak1 (Filinvest), San Pedro. 0920-654-0954

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Batangas 2.2 Has w/ 300 sqm Hse High value trees nr Golf Course, Mall 09164175181 & 8422015

LANZNES MANGO COCO FARM FENCE 5HEC BAT 817-8465 809-6822 • 0918-2144022

FACTORY/WHSE

COMM'L / IND'L WHSE & LOT 10,193m² alng Quirino Hway QC 50mts Frontage 4563243

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West
Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB
w/s-pool 0926-7102225

141 Batangas West
Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB
w/s-pool 0926-7102225

MANILA

House/Bedspacers 1500-7000 Call AJ 09204136412 5610960

RIZAL

2sty Town & Country Marcos Hway Tel 9118754 ; 9137652

Robinsons Hms. Antipolo 2BR T&B 533-0233 639-4416

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

4Rent - Penthse Dela Rosa P15T w/ dues 0917-8860440

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992148

MANDALUYONG

Man. Exec Mansion P8.5T w/dues Call 0917-8860440

Paragon Condo EDSA 2BR 3TB Pkg w/Tel 0921-2263303

SEMI CONDO 3BRMS P13,500 1BRM w/CR&TERRES 4,500 FREE WATER CALL 5338536 CEL 09163508758 MARLYN

Sn Francisco Grdens Boni 4br3tb Call 8906844 ofc hrs

Twhse 2BR/TB 0917-6231352

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office I
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79 Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07/08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph /E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for more or less 20,400 MT or 408,000 bags Imported Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From Poro Point to Staging Warehouses within La Union:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap. Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
1	Poro Port to La Union Staging Warehouses, San Juan GID, Aringay Whse./ Caragay Whse./ Agoo Whse./Obar Whse.	320,000	40	16,000	2,240,000.00

B. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses within Region I:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	DIK	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap. Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
2	Bangued GID, Abra	138.0	5,000	2	800	76,600.00
3	Chua Warehouse, Ilocos Sur	60.5	3,000	2	800	42,480.00

C. From Poro Point to the different warehouses within Region I:

4	Tagudin FLGC, Ilocos Sur	44.3	10,000	2	800	64,200.00
5	Binalonan Triplex	82.0	53,000	7	2,800	442,550.00
6	Binalonan DM	82.0	17,000	3	1,200	141,950.00

Interested Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (3:00 PM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (3:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-Accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose Registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than June 8, 2005.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "Eligible" or "Ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "Eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered "Ineligible".

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously three (3) envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two(2) containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instruction to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must at least be 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o MS. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072)-242-59-09 and (072)-700-25-79.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item/Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-212	2 units ECCS Machine Plus: Two (2) Years Maintenance Service	P 2,756,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **August 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **August 2, 2005, 2:00 PM,** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - July 23 & 30, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Katipunan fronting Ateneo 2BR furn rent19Tneg 0917-8550207•0917-6303454

1BR Studio Type 30m² P2.5T /mo 0917-9665772 Dennis

APARTMENT

MANILA

Samp 6459302 - 7841746

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

845 Samat St., Mand. City
Tel. # 5337709 to 12

PASIG

2BR 2TB 452-5822 937-4514

QUEZON CITY

2sty 2BR w/carport 1ride to SM North NIA Vill T.Sora QC P6,500/mo. Call 926-5264

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APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

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Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m² (Ideal for SPA, GYM) 9269541 / 7361925

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

256m² 0917-8860440 Pembo Mkti

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

W'HOUSES & OFFICES FOR LEASE NEAR THE INT'L AIRPORT IRASAN COMPLEX, NINOY AQUINO AVE P'QUE CITY CALL ARIS OR NET TEL 8296696 / 8299164

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

(2)'92 BMW 320I from Japan 1.3Mneg 4571918;09104846131

HONDA

'00 CIVIC MATIC 6471304

MERCEDES

'81 200D 80T 0917-8309990

NISSAN

2000 CEFIRO E. 520K 4351591

TOYOTA

'01 Super GRANDIA Topcond P780T terms 09175383998

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Prado Surf Terrano Fargo Serena Largo Delica Elf Canter etc 7127539

BUSES/TRUCKS

AluVan 60T dp 0917-3908413

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 929-2811

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VAN•XPDTN•COASTER 813-1975/76 (0917)833-4555

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

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  Good communication skill
- **Network Control Engineer**
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  PC device trouble shooting ability
  Network equipments maintenance knowledge required
  Familiar with TCP/IP
  MCSE, CCNA, RHCE License will be a plus
- **Database System Analyst**
  College or University graduate
  Hands-on good skill in SA Database access, MSSQL, MYSQL
  Candidates must be experienced with designs of computer process
  Strong analytical skill
- **On-line Sales & Marketing Representative**
  College or University graduate
  Good command of English
  Basic computer operation skill required
  Experience in consumer goods in multinational company will be a plus
  Strong Sales skill
  Organized and independent worker who has a great team spirit

Interested and qualified applicants will be interviewed by Mr. Steve in office from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Please send up-to-date resumé in English with latest photo to
e-mail: Steed@twnese.com and
Copy to E-Mail: esteken@yahoo.com.tw

Address: Unit 23-B of Chatham House Condominium, Herrera corner Valero, Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Tel. No. 843-5377

Insurance Company
is in need of:

Insurance Coordinators

- Female, 18-25 years old
- With pleasant personality, outgoing
- College Level

Interested applicants can apply in person with their resumé, a 2x2 picture and other related credentials.

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Suite 214-A Kaimo Condominium Building
101 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
(Next to Santo Domingo Church)
lbc@asiains.com.ph

LCR FORM 10 1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ALFREDO P. GUMINANG has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from FAUSTINO JR. to ALFREDO in the Certificate of Live Birth of FAUSTINO GUMINANG JR. who was born on January 23, 1951 at MANILA CITY and whose parents are FAUSTINO GUMINANG and TERESA PABRO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than July 25, 2005.

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–July 16 & 23, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1Hour Car Loan 9153460

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6560140

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

2006 PANASONIC Plasma 42" TV Brand new 09164013848

BILLIARDS

26T New Complt Sr Imptd 7767507

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
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AGENCIA de MAKATI-8897956
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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Migrating to Canada or Australia, please visit www.b4landing.com.

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on
July 30, 2005
at 9:00 AM.
Including all items pawned up to February 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

---

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Manila	Interview Schedules
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Loyola Heights, Katipunan	September 20-22, 2005 Cebu
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Cellphone: Eve - 0919-4312107	Cellphone : Cecil 0919-2104200

Please bring photocopies of your documents RESUMÉ W/ PICTURE, TRANSCRIPT, EMP. CERTS., PRC ID, EXAM RESULTS, PASSPORT

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:

- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:

- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late COMMODORE DOMINGO H. CALAJATE has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on July 14, 2005 before Atty. Ma. Concepcion A. Gloria, Notary Public in and for Manila City as per Doc. 239, Page 49, Book V, Series of 2005
(PDI - July 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that JESUS F. ORTEGA has self adjudicated unto himself the estate of his late mother Belen the following properties A parcel of land Lot 6209 NW by Lot 6202 NE Lot 6210 SE Lot 6208 SW by Mabini St., A Parcel of land Lot 1747 Cad 466-Dand Lot 1755 Cad 466 all situated in Alfonso Cavite before Notary Public Gil Genorga of City of Taguig.
(PDI- July 16, 23, & 30 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIO SUMBILLO PUNZALAN was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share among his heirs as per Doc. No. 207, Page No. 42, Book No. IV, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Jose P. Perlas of Manila.
(PDI-July 23, 30 & August 6, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE REMEDIOS P. DIAZ-OPEÑA HAVE EXECUTED AN EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AS PER DOC. NO. 456 PAGE NO. 93 BOOK NO. 146 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE ATTY. IMELDA JIRO CRUZ-NERY, A NOTARY PUBLIC.
(PDI JULY 9,16 & 23, 2005)

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FELLOWSHIPS IN:

I. **CV Anesthesiology Division**
  - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

II. **Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department**
  - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
  - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
  - 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCIES IN: (for Medical Board Passers)

IV. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
V. **Nuclear Medicine Section**
VI. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division**
VII. **1 year Fellowship Program (CV Radiological Sciences / Nuclear Medicine / Biological & Clinical Lab.)**
  - Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2005
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on January 1, 2006

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" colored picture
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with tel. nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposals for:

Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
3 Units Server Computer	P 4,042,929.00

Eligibility check, evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and are contained in the Bidding Documents which may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Jocelyn Marilou C. Gamboa, Procurement Division, COA Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of four thousand Pesos (P4,000.00).

A pre-bid conference shall be held at 2:00 PM on **August 12, 2005** at the BAC Office, old SAADO Bldg., COA Central Office. Deadline for submission of Eligibility Documents and Bids shall be at 9:00 AM on **August 26, 2005**. Opening of bids shall follow immediately.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to abort the bidding process, waive any minor defect in the bids received, and to accept the most advantageous bid.

For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tele Fax No. 931-7582 / 9302.

(Sgd.) ARCADIO B. CUENCO, Jr.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 23, 2005)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the **TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF ISABELA INTEGRATED MINE MOUTH COAL FIRED POWER PLANT (IP05-878) AT CAUAYAN, ISABELA PROVINCE**. The contract duration is two (2) months. The approved budget for this contract is Php2,000,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting July 26, 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Thousand Five Hundred (PHP2,500.00). The prospective bidder or his/her authorized representative shall receive the eligibility and bid documents personally.

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, The Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 8, 2005, 2:00 P.M.** at PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The First Envelope containing the Eligibility Requirements, the Second Envelope containing the Technical Bid, and the Third Envelope containing the Financial Bid, shall be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M. of August 22, 2005** at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City (Attention: the undersigned or George N. Alejandro) and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense in the preparation of the bid. Moreover, PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most the advantageous to the government

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) Jose M. Eijansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--July 23, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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722-1144
722-1155

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79 Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07/08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph /E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR HANDLING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Handling Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Unloading Services of NFA imported rice at the different NFA/Leased Warehouses in Region I, to wit:

Province/Destination/Warehouses	Approved Volume (in bags of 50 kg) for Transfer Within the Region	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Rate per 50-kg bag x Total Volume)
1. NFA GID Warehouse, San Juan/ Staging Warehouses, La Union	569,000	P 1,707,000.00
2. NFA Loakan/NFA Kadiwa Warehouse, Loakan Whse., Baguio City	70,000	210,000.00
3. NFA GID Warehouse, Abra	5,000	15,000.00
4. NFA GID Warehouse, Laoag City, Dingras Whse., Ilocos Norte	22,000	66,000.00
5. NFA GID Warehouse, Bantay, Ilocos Sur	41,000	123,000.00
6. NFA GID Warehouse, Binalonan, NFA Rosales Warehouse, Pangasinan	107,000	321,000.00
– La Union to Binalonan	70,000	210,000.00
– Binalonan to Baguio City	70,000	210,000.00
7. NFA GID Alaminos/ NFA Mangatarem GID, Pangasinan	84,000	252,000.00
TOTAL	1,038,000	P 3,114,000.00

Interested Handling Contractors may bid on any or all warehouse-destinations. The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (1:00 PM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (1:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms.Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(SGD) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – July 16 & 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph/E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 01

The National Food Authority, NFA Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union invites qualified Cargo Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Cargo Handling Services in the discharging of more or less 20,000 MT or 400,000 bags rice imports at Poro Port, San Fernando City with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P3,455,200.00.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (10:00 AM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid Conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Building, San Juan, La Union.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
BAC-GS, PGSO, DepEd Bldg., Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 416-6065, 255-1649 / Telefax No. (032) 253-9614
E-mail Address: bac_cpg@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Goods & Services, invites interested contractors/lessors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Phase II ANNUAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL intended for its infrastructure programs, as follows:

Equipment Type:

1. Bulldozer, powershift with angling blade and ripper
2. Bulldozer, powershift without angling blade and ripper
3. Backhoe "Crawler type"
4. Backhoe "Wheel type"
5. Air compressor, low pressure, diesel driven skid and/or truck-mounted complete with accessories
6. Air compressor, tandem with jackhammer
7. Air compressor, tandem with rockdrill 1"-2", 5-foot depth capable
8. Welding machine, diesel driven skid and/or mounted (big wheels), 220V with AC outlet welding mask, rod holder 50M cable and 20M ground cable
9. Electric genset, diesel driven skid and/or truck-mounted, 220V complete with accessories (minimum of 10 KVA & up)
10. Vibratory compactor, self-propelled, front-single smooth drum rear-pneumatic tire, 8-10 ton
11. Vibratory compactor, walk behind, 1 ton
12. Forklift
13. Vibratory plate compactor, single direction, 83-104 kg.
14. Vibratory plate compactor tamper, 59-81 kg.
15. Transit mixer, 10 wheeler, 4-5 cu.m.
16. Dump Truck, 10 wheeler, double differential with front drive, 8.0-10 cu.m.
17. Boom Truck, 10 wheeler, double differential, telescopic boom 5 tons - up
18. Dump Truck, standard, 10-wheeler double differential
19. Dump Truck, standard, 6-wheeler, with FD (5-6m)
20. Dump Truck, standard, 6-wheeler, without FD (5-6m)
21. Wheel loader with articulated steering
22. Motor grader
23. Concrete mixer, engine driven, one (1) bagger
24. Boom truck, 1-5T capacity
25. Backhoe loader, wheel type with loader bucket of 1.25 CY and Backhoe Bucket of 0.2 to 0.5 CY 70-90 FWHP

The contract duration is one (1) year. The ceiling rates shall be based on the Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors (ACEL), Inc. Guidebook, Edition 22, January 2003.

Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the BAC-GS Secretariat starting July 15, 2005, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: TWO THOUSAND ONLY (Php 2,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on July 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Conference Room, PGSO, DepEd Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

Application for Eligibility and sealed bids will be received by the BAC-GS Secretariat not later than 10:00 a.m. of August 9, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The Provincial Government of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **BERNARD E. CALDERON**
Chairman, BAC-GS

(PDI - July 15 & 23, 2005)

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on August 3, 2005, 10:00 a.m., 6th Floor, OPS Conference Room of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following on CASH BASIS.

Four (4) parcels of adjoining commercial lots situated at the corners of Session Road, Perfecto and Cerantes Streets, Baguio City having an aggregate area of 842 sq.m. more or less with the following particulars:

Title	Area
1. TCT No. T-21710	10 sq.m.
2. TCT No. T-21711	446 sq.m.
3. TCT No. T-21712	89 sq.m.
4. TCT No. T-21713	297 sq.m.

Minimum selling price is P109,460,000.00.

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the Property and Security Management (PSM), Property Disposal Committee (Attention: AVP Seldo F. Ubungen), Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 818-9511 loc. 3101 or 867-3247.

PSM PROPERTY DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

(PDI–July 22 & 23, 2005)

CCAP Contact Center Association of the Philippines and PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER present the

Call Center CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2005 SUPPLEMENT

In support for the **Call Center Conference and Expo 2005** the **Inquirer National Classifieds** will release on **August 19, 2005** a special tabloid-sized pullout section featuring CCAP news, activities and job advertisements.

Just like the previous year, the **Call Center Conference & Expo 2005 Supplement** will be distributed for **FREE** during the event and circulated in **Metro Manila** with the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** – the most read and widest circulated broadsheet in the land.

In celebration of **Inquirer's 20th anniversary**, we offer advertisers a special package:

- FULL COLOR ADVERTISING
- Discounted ad rate of Php 261.50 / col.cm (VAT exclusive) for a minimum size requirement of 7 cols x 15 cms / half page placement.
- Reasonable Ad Rates for half page, full page & centerspread ads.

Materials for all paid booked ads (in cash) must be submitted on or before **August 10, 2005.** Materials should be emailed to **llimbo@inquirer.com.ph.**

Should you have any questions,please call **811-4370 / 4165 / 4361** or **892-5578** (fax) and look for **Ms. Emy Limbo.**

We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with your company.

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
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300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution)
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NFA Palengke Watch continues

TO ASSURE that affordable rice is always available, the National Food Authority keeps its monitoring teams to continue the monitoring of rice outlets situated inside minor and major public markets nationwide. In Metro Manila alone, the NFA has deployed 17 personnel to monitor 55 markets located in Manila, Quezon City, North District (Camanva), South District (Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasay, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Taguig, Pateros and Muntinlupa) and the East District (Marikina, Pasig and all provinces of Rizal).

A total of 583 retailers were monitored as of July 11. Of this number, 99 are Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) and Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP)outlets; 237 are accredited individual retailers and the remaining 250 are commercial rice outlets. Prices of NFA regular-milled and well-milled rice remain unchanged at P16 and P18 per kilogram, respectively.

The monitoring teams also reported that commercial rice prices were recorded between P19 to P24 per kilogram.

NFA Palengke Watch teams are employees of the NFA authorized to apprehend rice businessmen found violating the rules and regulations set by the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP) such as over pricing and stock diversion.

25th Jubilee anniversary of Embers '80 of Hope Christian High School

COME Aug. 6, the Embers '80 of Hope Christian High School will celebrate its Silver Jubilee Anniversary at Grand Boulevard Hotel 7pm. All Embers alumni are requested to attend the event and enjoy the fun, music and nostalgic moments of the high school days. Registration starts at 6:00pm. For details or inquiries, please call Mr. Roberto Lim at 09175396547/ Mr. Terence Santos at 09189104688; Ms. Nancy Tan-Yu at 09189248360 or email at embers80@yahoogroups.com

Get a free job conulstation over a free breakfast

CALLING all call center agents, team leaders and employees. Talk about boosting your call center careers over breakfast with John Clements Consultants, Inc. and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, as they bring you Breakfast Forum: CareerConference@JohnClements, Fast-Tracking your Career at Call Centers. The activity is from 7-9 AM on Wednesday, July 27 at Dencio's Paseo Center in Makati. Get tips from call center colleagues who have made it big. Learn the secret of making it to the top, and over free breakfast, too. Please remember we will require a copy of your resume. Your call center friends and colleagues are welcome, as well. For reservations and an assured seat, call Noralyn Casas at 884-1365 or 884-1168.

Workshops on the use of power/coaching

CENTER for Leadership and Change, Inc. is bringing back to Manila, **Dr. Blaine Lee,** founding Vice President of FranklinCovey Co., this July to conduct workshops on the use of power and another on coaching. The workshop entitled, **"Leadership & Power in Education: Honoring those you Lead"** is scheduled on July 27, at Century Park Hotel, Manila. This workshop is a must for leaders in education. Here he will show how one can overcome powerlessness, create legitimate power, influence with honor, and leave a long-lasting legacy on the lives of the people your care about. On July 28, at New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City, Dr. Lee will give a workshop entitled, **"Journey with a Life Coach"**. A one-day workshop for leaders, facilitators and coaches in organizations. This will focus on the foundational principles of coaching and mentoring, and how you can enable others to realize their potentials. For inquiries on these workshops, please call 817-2726 or email us at covey@clci.ph.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

35,000 bags UREA FERTILIZER
(RE-BIDDING)
Commercial Grade – 46-0-0
"PRILLED" Type
Packed in 50-kilo bags lined with plastic
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
To be delivered to BAIS-URSUMCO, Luca Port, Tanjay, Negros Oriental
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 22, 929,850.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	July 19, 2005 – August 5, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	August 11, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	August 25, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

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Our Dearly Beloved Papa

PEDRO "PETE" C. BERSOLA

(Colonel, GSC, Ret.-PMA Class '40)

Peacefully joined our Lord and his beloved wife ***JOSIE****,*
on the 16th of July 2005 at the age of 88.

"Pete" is survived by his children **Perla & Henry Sta. Maria** (Texas, USA), **Robert & Ching, Peter & Jane** (Cal., USA), **Lynda & Fred Puno** (Cal., USA), **Rolando & Jean** (Texas, USA), **Tessie** (Cal., USA), **Gerry & Anne** (Texas, USA), **Rose Mary,** and **Albert & Maybol**; 31 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; brothers **Ernie & Adele** (Cal., USA) and **Paul & Trudie** (Cal., USA). Relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Camp Emilio Aguinaldo Mortuary, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We, the family of the dearly beloved

DELIA SO LEE ING

(Mrs. So Seng Chiong)

who joined her Creator on July 14, 2005

wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to all those who in various ways have expressed their sympathy, concern and prayerful support during this difficult time of our bereavement.

In gratitude, we too, pray that God's blessing of Love and Good Health remain with you and your family always.

Francisco "Paquito" S. Marcilla

(Assistant Prosecutor, City of Manila)

Has peacefully joined his Creator on July 21, 2005 at the age of 44.

His loving wife Joy, loving children Francis and Karlo, sisters and brothers-in-law Ate Bessie & Bert, Ate Baby & Ramon, Ate Vangie (+) & Nilo, Ate Mary & Ed, Ate Aline & Alan, Ate Bolet & Delfin; nieces, nephews, other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel 6 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on July 24, 2005
at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City after the 10:00 am mass.

Mortuary and Crematory at THE HERITAGE PARK

GRACE HUANG KUA

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 19, 2005 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband **Kua Bio** (†); children **Hosanna K. Uy** and husband **Robert, Samuel Huang Kua** and wife **Lavinia, Daniel Huang Kua** and wife **Teresita, Rebecca Kua Tan** and husband **Alexander**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

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Sorely missed and fondly remembered
On the First Death Anniversary of

ENYA MONTAÑANO LOPEZ

20 January, 1932 – 24 July, 2004

Join us at Holy Mass in:

Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	5:30 AM (23 July 2005)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel *New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 AM (23 July 2005)
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception *Batangas City*	6:00 AM (24 July 2005)
St. Bartholomew Parish *Nagcarlan, Laguna*	8:00 AM (24 July 2005)
National Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua	8:15 AM (24 July 2005)
Pearl of Great Price Chapel, *DLSU Manila*	9:00 AM (24 July 2005)
Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel *Harrison Plaza*	12:00 NN (24 July 2005)

ERRATUM

In the obituary advertisement of **MICHAEL LOPEZ RECTO** published in this paper July 22, 2005, wife **ANGELA** should be **ANGELITA**. In the last paragraph, Shepherd of Hermans should have been **SHEPHERD OF HERMAS FOUNDATION.**

Our Apology

LA FUNERARIA PAZ-SUCAT, INC.

Our Dearly Beloved

ALEJANDRO M. IGNACIO

of Laoag, Ilocos Norte and Donada, Pasay City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 15, 2005 at the age of 79.

His loving wife, Theresa; children, Ma. Linda, Ma. Luisa and Bobby; together with relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc., Pasay City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 23, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish Church, P. Burgos St., Pasay City.

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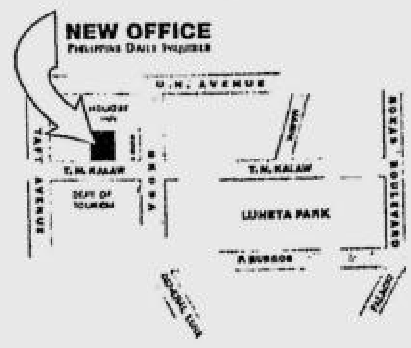

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John 14:6

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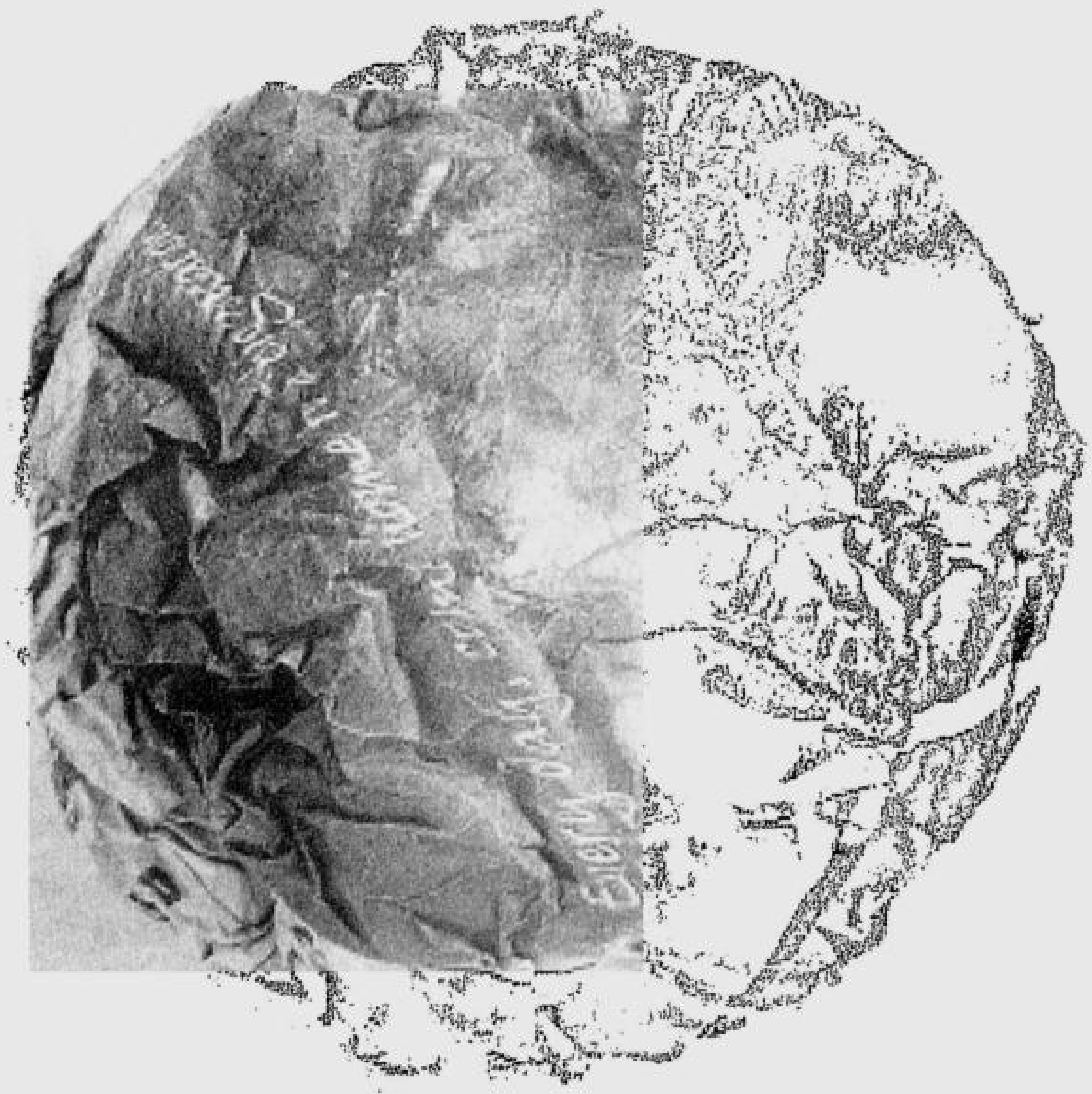

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INQUIRER

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Developer sells $7.8M to US-based Filipinos

By Charles E. Buban

A SERIES of marketing road shows in the United States' West Coast, Midwest and parts of East Coast proved fruitful for one local developer as it reported selling $7.8 million (P435 million) to Filipinos living in these areas.

"This may signal a renewed interest of US-based Filipinos on properties located here. This is good news since they have the capability to perk up the market as well as help drive the property sector here," says Democrito Plaza III, president of DO Plaza Estates Inc.

Plaza went to the United States to promote and sell its latest project in Parañaque City called Plaza Crest, a 2.7-hectare upscale property whose package ranges from P4 million to P13 million.

More than a third

"Our *kababayans* (countrymen) living in California, Seattle, Washington, Texas and the New York-New Jersey area bought more than a third or 60 of the 154 units to be built at Plaza Crest.

Plaza Crest, conceptualized by two of the country's top urban planners, Felino Palafox Jr. of Palafox & Associates and Rolando Mercado of RMDA Architects, is a low-density community with trees, gardens, walkways and common areas for community-oriented activities dominating the whole development.

"The concept is to build communities that will encourage people to leave their cars behind, go out on foot, in order to socialize, relax, shop and play," describes Plaza.

Good mix

Plaza describes the mix of buyers of the development: those nearing retirement age and who are seriously contemplating on returning to the Philippines for good; middle-aged investors who want to diversify their property holdings outside the United States; and young professionals who are starting to build successful careers and want to trade up to higher value properties for their parents here in the Philippines.

"They all want to buy properties in a secure, well-located community with strong upside potentials, which Plaza Crest can provide them," says Plaza.

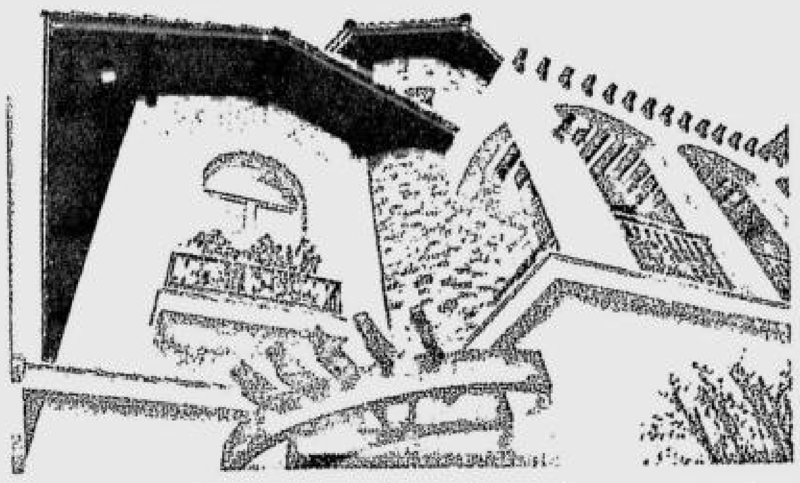
He believes DO Plaza Estates is just barely scratching the surface of this pent-up demand for high-end development adding that, "this interest is broad-based and should augur well for other local developers."

Developer DO Plaza Estates Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the DO Plaza Holdings Corp., and an umbrella company of the Plaza Group of companies, a prominent industrial enterprise in the Visayas and Mindanao with interests in logging and cement production before it ventured into residential development in the '70s.

Attractiveness

Plaza Crest's attractiveness to Filipino-Americans, he believes, stems from not on-

DEVELOPER/ B2-2



The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the page's of a novel.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

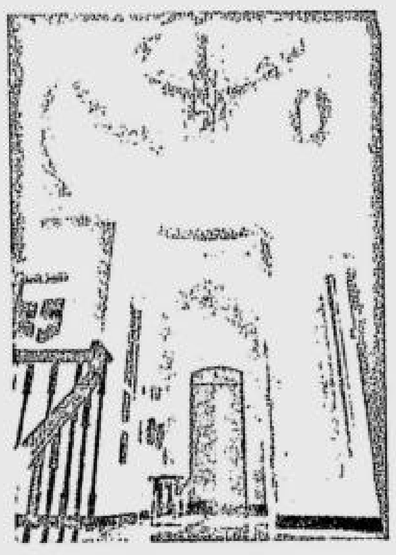
The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

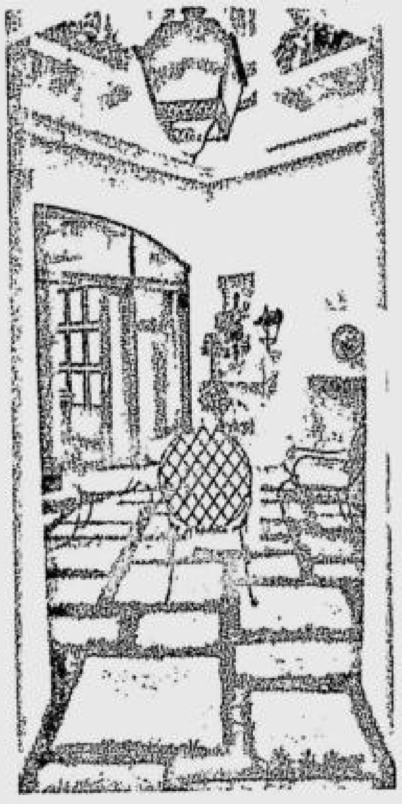
The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.



Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.



The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Ideal campus design

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

MY office, Architecture Network, is located on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, and being on an upper floor, I have a commanding view of my alma mater of 12 years, the Ateneo de Manila University. While I was there, I never really gave much thought to the architecture of the campus. For one, at that time, I had never gone to any other school so there was no basis of comparison. It is only in retrospect that I truly appreciate the simplicity of the old campus and the abundance of space on which it nestles.

Lush greenery

Not many schools have the luxury of 110 hectares of prime land, with approximately 80 percent as open space, dotted with trees and grassy fields. When I was there, and I believe until now, the grade school and high school classrooms were arranged in rows, mostly on ground level, connected by corridors. Stairways are few, therefore reducing the risks of accidents and mishaps. The quadrangles are tree lined with lush greenery, cooling the area and minimizing dust.

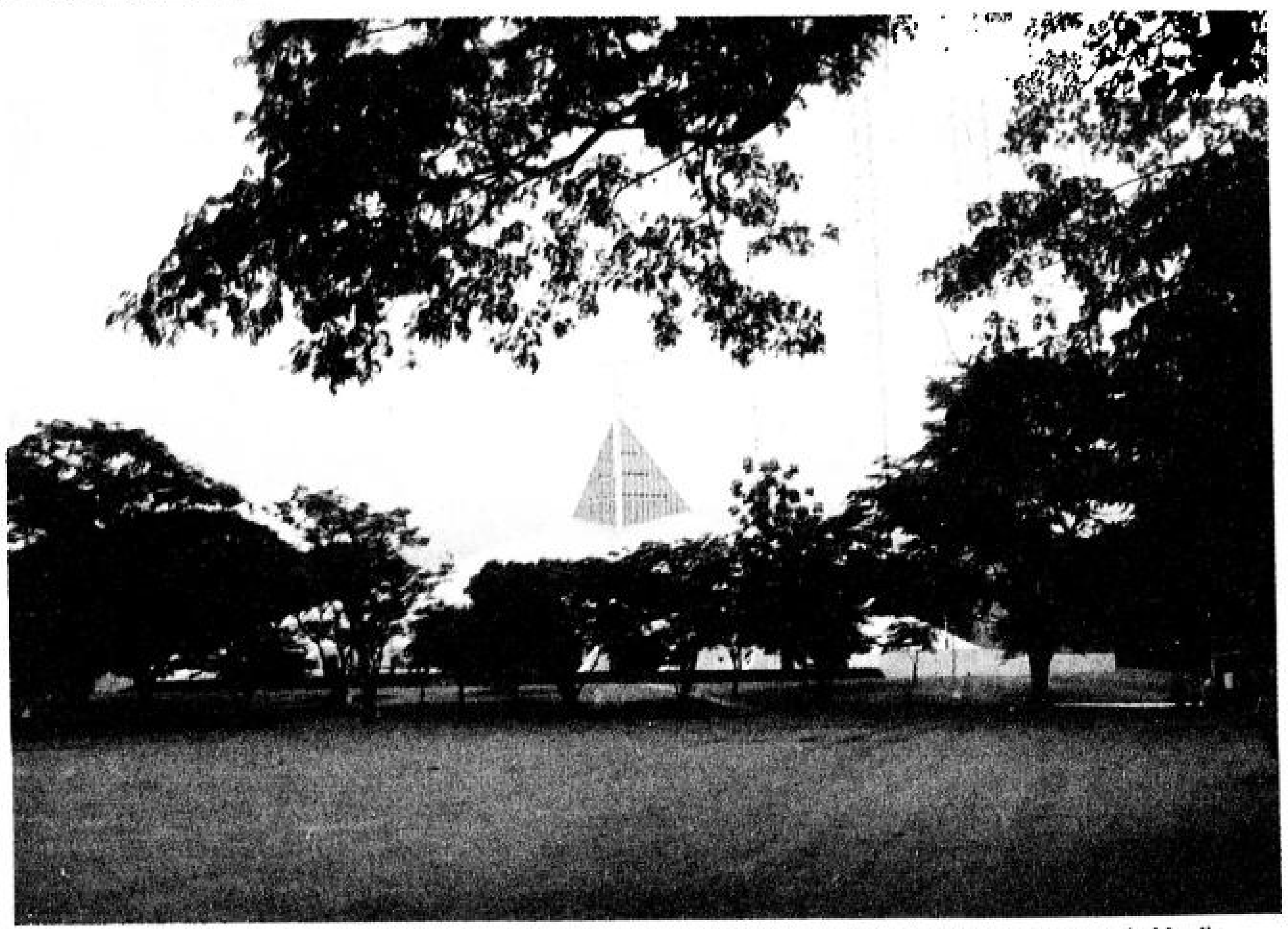
The rows of classrooms are far apart enough that special building material specifications are not needed to manage the acoustics. Corridors are single loaded, which means that the classrooms are only placed on one side of the corridor allowing for comfortable cross-ventilation.

In addition, being situated on top of a hill several meters above the Marikina valley eliminates the need for air-conditioning. The classrooms are located several hundred meters away from busy Katipunan Avenue, creating the perception that you are not within the city.

Modernized

Since my time, the school has modernized. Buildings are being erected with the likes of Bobby Mañoza and Recio-Casas designing them. Yet, some wide, open spaces remain intact, shielding the community from urban chaos. Perhaps, this is how peace and serenity can be achieved amid the bustle, through an abundance of nature and space.

However, it does not mean that even with the relaxing environment, the students do not experience stress. Jesuit education does come with some amount of stress, but at least it is not compounded by congestion, noise, pollution and heat.



THE CHURCH of the Jesu, designed by Recio+Casas & Associates, the newest landmark in the Ateneo de Manila campus, follows the simplicity of form.

Optimizing space

Unfortunately, most schools are not as lucky. They have to settle for air-conditioning, artificial sound insulation and space optimization techniques. But, even with minimum land area, it must still be possible to squeeze in space for plants and landscaping. Nature could be nurtured on decks, balconies, trellises, potted gardens and windowsills, among others.

Fish in aquariums and ponds can also liven up certain corners. Noise could be masked by the use of water features like fountains or falling water. Most often, it is only the classrooms and canteens that are air-conditioned, while the remaining areas are not. Using plants and water features in these places could help lower the temperature and make these areas more comfortable, if not more beautiful.

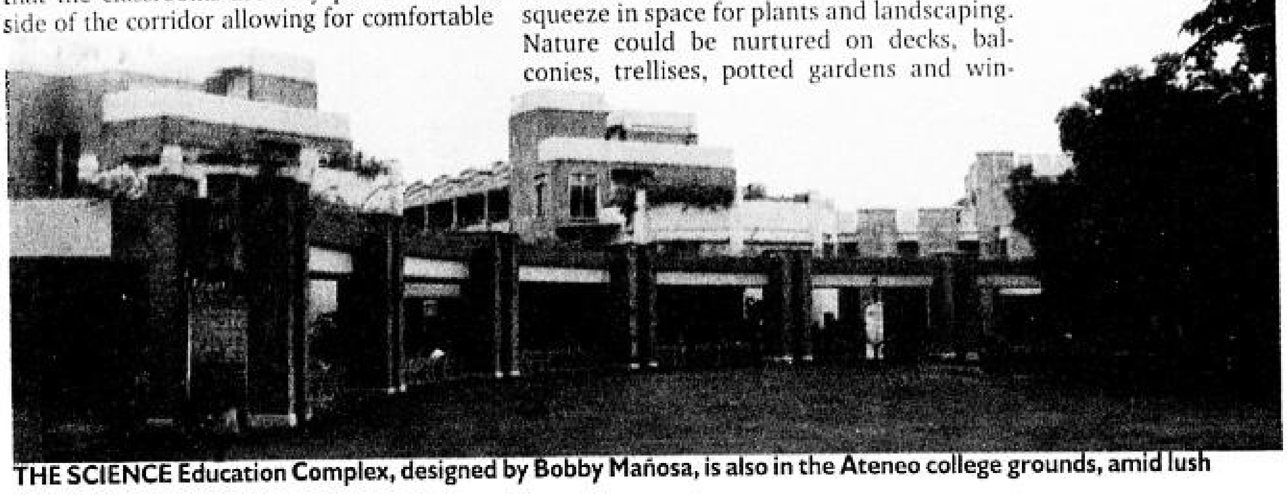
Growing up in a simple and relaxed atmosphere enhances learning and the cultivation of ennobling ideas.

Campus designs

Comfortable and peaceful surroundings encourage creativity and openness. School planners must be aware that environment plays a lot in the absorption of knowledge.

The youth who will people their institutions are not merely "users" of space; they are malleable, receptive persons, who must be helped in the pursuit of their future. As such, campus designs must allow for sufficient open areas, natural or man-made, wherein young, thirsty minds can be refreshed, soothed, or buoyed. At the very least, some corners must be designed as attractive, quiet oases, maybe showcasing calming, thoughtful art pieces, for the restoration of tired souls.

On the other hand, designing purely for esthetics is not the solution. The basic purpose of a structure must be the builder's guiding consideration. Eminent architect, Frank Lloyd Wright has stated, "Form follows function." The formula seems simple enough but it takes maturity and experience for it to be truly followed, to strike the perfect balance. One needs to overcome whim to see beyond cosmetics, to be able to appreciate "true to form" design.



THE SCIENCE Education Complex, designed by Bobby Mañosa, is also in the Ateneo college grounds, amid lush greenery.

Creba Expo: supermart for home buyers, homeowners

THE CREBA Expo 2005 with the theme "Our World Under One Roof," this year's major project of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) set on July 27-30 at the World Trade Center, is envisioned as the first creative and stylish supermarket for home buyers and homeowners.

This was underscored by Creba national president Jaime A. Cura and executive vice president Rosemarie C. Basa, who is also expo chair. "Everybody is invited," they said.

All kinds of real estate property will be presented to the public. House-and-lot packages, medium-rise and high-rise condominium—socialized, low-cost, medium, upscale—commercial development, vacation and retirement communities and leisure resorts, and even memorial parks. For homeowners after household and garden wares, an "agora" of booths bursting with variety of items awaits them.

Learning experience

For both buyers and owners, the expo can be a learning experience. For each expo day, free forums are scheduled on such topics as how to apply for Pag-Ibig Fund membership and housing loans and to restructure delinquent loans; home improvements, interior design, including color schemes, furniture arrangements, even feng shui and pointers on well-planned and functional homes, landscaping and gardening, even without soil.

Other topics are detecting fake land titles, documenting titles, land sales and transfers and replacing lost, damaged and defective titles; house design and layout, how to compute cost of labor and materials in house construction; real estate taxation, land valuation and appraisal, and how to avail of housing loans with banks.

Visitors interested in engaging in real estate selling, will get tips on how to become licensed real estate brokers, and even how to take advantage of opportunities in the international market.

"With all this available valuable information and all the dazzling real estate exhibits," Cura and Basa said, "almost everybody has every good reason to drop by and even stay on at the Creba Expo 2005."

Exhibitors

Taking part as exhibitors are Alanda E-Realty, Almeda Inc., Asian Pacific, Benjamin Construction, Brittany, Cathay Land Inc., Central Country Estate, CityState Realty Development Corp., Crown Asia/Polar, DMCI Homes, Duraville Realty Development Corp., Elysian Field, Empire East Corp., Extraordinary-Earth and Style, Federal Land, Fil-Estate, Filipinia Tagaytay Properties/RGV, Filinvest Land Inc. and Fortune Star, Goldland, Heritage Park, Homeowners Development Corp., Houseland Realty, Jardine Land, JTKC Land Inc., Lexber Realty/Holiday, Loremar Realty and Loyola Group of Companies.

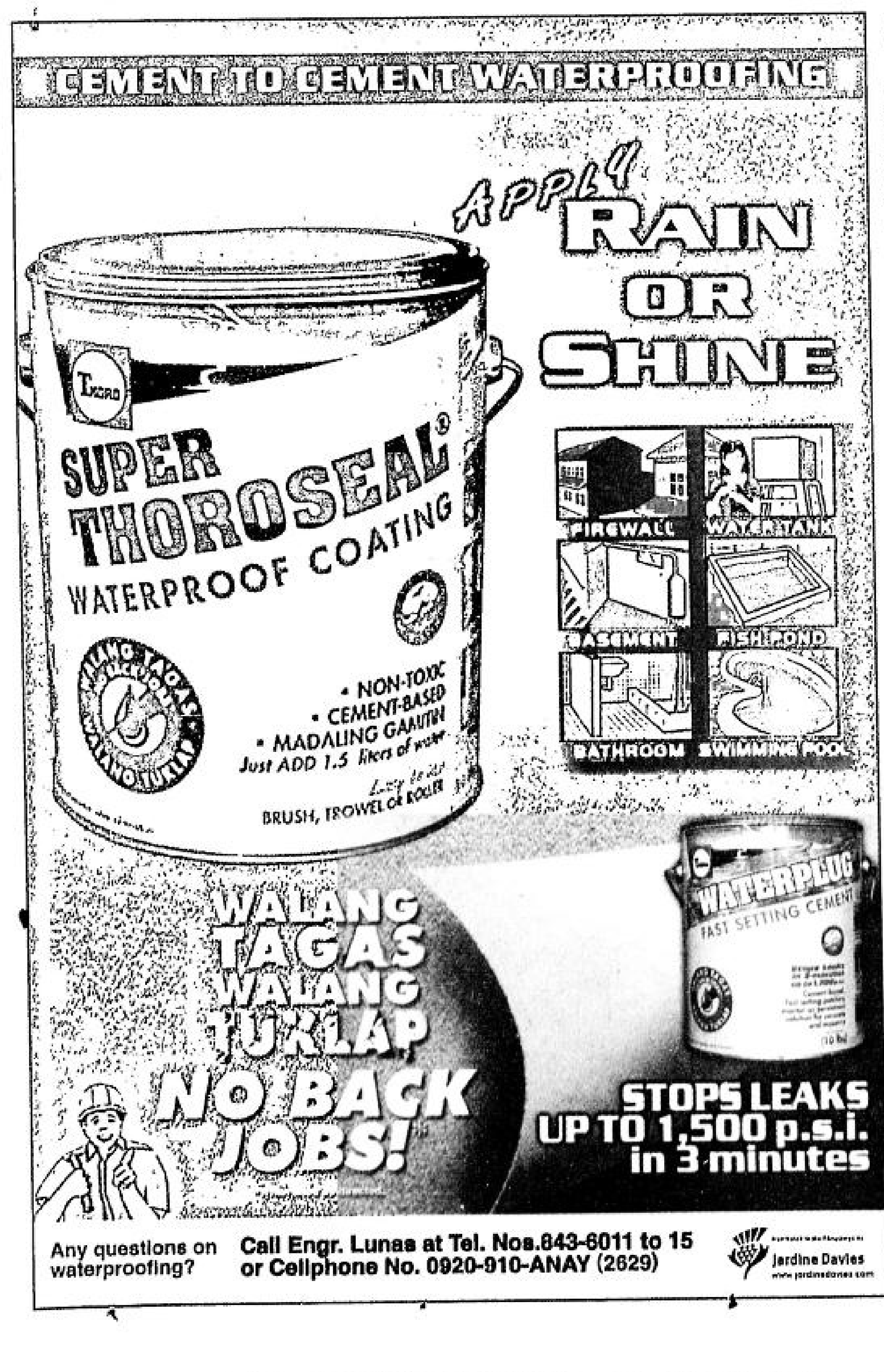
Also participating are Macro Properties, M. Abubakar Consolidated, Magnificent Ventures, MILHA Inc., Moldex Realty, Masterpiece, Northwoods Realty Development Corp., One Asia Development Corp., PhilMay Property, Philtown Properties Inc., R-II Builders, RJ Lhinet, Serve Quest, Sta. Elena Properties, State Properties Corp., Starland Properties, Sunrise Holiday Concept, The Shang Grand Tower Corp., TGCI (Canyon Woods Residential), and V.V. Soliven Realty Development.

Other exhibitors are Allied Bank, China Bank, Government Service Insurance System, Land Bank, LBC Development Bank, MayBank, MetroBank, National Home Mortgage Financing Corp., Pag-IBIG Fund, PS Bank, and Social Security System.

Other participants

Also taking part in the expo are Bayview Hotel, Boracay Regency, Broline Com. Corespaces, D.B. International Sales & Services Team Asia, Directories Phils. Corp., DSL Enterprises, Fedders Koppel Inc., Holcim Phils., INCA Plastics, Incuzxe Solutions, International Partners & Consulting Group, Jardine Davies, Jazmed Enterprises, Jett Water Heater, Makati Foundry, MarketReach Distributors, Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc., Microdata Systems & Management, Multi-Line Design systems, and M2M Wireless Tech.

Other participants are Negros Navigation, Pars Builders, Paradise Chemical, Pearl Pacific World of Leisure, Phimetal Products, Philippine Ecopanel, Puyat Vinyl Products Inc., Southeast Asian Airlines, Spurway Enterprises, Steel Asia, Stoneage Industrial Financing Corp., Stoneworks Corp., Sycwin Coating and Wires Inc. Sysco Development Corp., Tanay Industries, Techno Asia Inc., Total Powerbox Solutions, Tyra's Marketing, Unipac, Vacation Club International, Wonder Island Resort, and Zapanta Décor.



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Shang Grand Tower ready to reshape Makati skyline

WITH ITS record completion and formal opening late this year, the upscale, self-funded Shang Grand Tower, the Kuok Group's first residential condominium project in the country, will redefine luxury, elegance and comfort for its residents and will certainly reshape the Makati skyline.

Backed up by such extensive industry experience and expertise, the Kuok Group, which also owns and manages properties throughout the Asia-Pacific region, composed of luxury hotels, beach resorts and business hotels, most notable of which is the award-winning Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts, will most certainly make major real estate waves, locally, with the paradise that The Shang Grand Tower will be.

Manhattan-type skyscraper

In the true tradition of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, The Shang Grand Tower will be a Manhattan-type skyscraper standing tall in Makati's central business district, reflecting a soothing mauve hue, verdant tints glinting bright sunny rays like a diamond in the polish.

This 46-story gem located at the compact corner of a triangle bound by Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in the heart of Legaspi Village, is just a few minutes walk from Glorietta and Greenbelt malls, The Enterprise Center and other major business establishments and Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

2 elegant lobbies

The Shang Grand Tower will have two separate elegant lobbies, serving each of the two zones in the building. Each lobby will be serviced by three high-speed elevators for the comfort and privacy of the residents.

The low zone, composed of one and two-bedroom units, is located from the sixth to the 26th floors. The high zone has these residences: one- and two-bedroom units from the 27th to the 30th floors; three-bedroom units from the 31st to the 42nd floors; special two- and three-bedroom units on the 43rd and 44th floors; and two grand penthouses occupy the 45th and 46th floors.

Just below the sixth floor is the amenities floor, which effectively shields the rest of the higher floors. Likewise, it is a haven for residents, a comfort zone where they can relax and unwind in the state-of-the-art gym and fitness centers, multipurpose rooms, tropical garden and pool (one for the adults and another one for children), a kiddie play area and other luxurious features.

Four levels at the basement and three levels at the podium were allocated for parking slots.

Developer sells $7.8M to US-based Filipinos

From page B2-1

ly its countryside ambience and location, but also its unique characters.

Plaza Crest offers three types of dwelling units, each varying in size and amenities.

"The four-level Garden Villas, with floor areas ranging from 200 to 220 square meters, will appeal to big families since the units here will offer three to four bedrooms, kitchen and dining areas, three to four toilets and baths, a maid's room with toilet and bath, and two parking slots," he enumerates.

Another type is the three-level de luxe townhouses, which have floor areas ranging from 145 to 164 sq m, two to three bedrooms, attic provisions, kitchen and dining areas, two to three toilets and baths, a maid's room with toilet and bath and two parking slots.

"A lot of those who bought this type are young, growing families or empty nesters, who expect overnight weekend visits from their grownup children," describes Plaza.

Walk-up condo

The third type are walk-up condominiums, which offer two to three bedrooms, two to three toilets and baths, maid's room with toilet and bath and a parking slot, suitable for start-up families, expatriates and retirees.

"There will be two styles: a two-level unit with floor areas from 129 to 142 sq m; and third floor penthouse units with floor areas ranging from 56 to 62 sq m; and offers exclusive entry/exit from the ground floor.

"We even had foreigners getting interested since they are allowed to own a unit here," shares Plaza.

Asian inspired

To maximize the enjoyment of the surrounding vista, Mercado says they decided on adopting Asian-inspired architecture.

"These dwelling are well-ventilated, which allows more air and plenty of natural light. Usually, two sides of the rooms in Asian-inspired homes have openings that allow sunlight and air to go through and pass through unimpeded," says Mercado.

Mercado also says Plaza Crest residents will enjoy more windows, cross-openings, trellises, verandas and balconies.

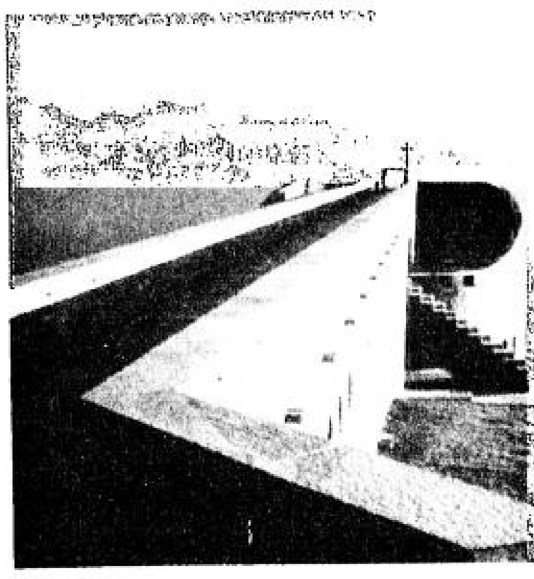
"The windows and doors of the living and dining areas will open directly to pocket gardens to provide an organic concept prevalent in ideal Asian-inspired houses," Mercado says.

The Asian motif will be further reinforced through the use of indigenous materials and treatments.

"Streamlined and simple design of reinforced concrete typical of contemporary Asian houses will be accented with natural stones, glass windows, and architectural wood treatments for esthetic and functional value," describes Mercado.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

Santa Maria degli Angeli Chapel



THE BRIDGE goes up to the edge of the cliff where a balcony with a cross sits.

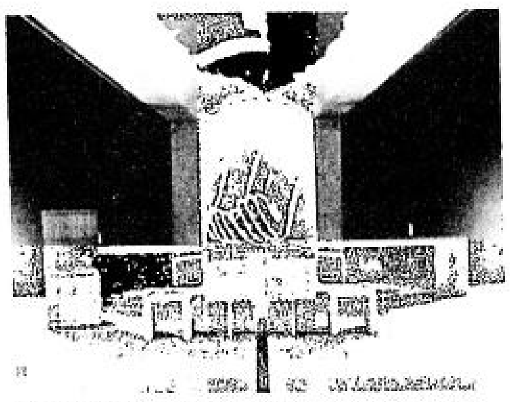
LOCATED on the mountainous regions of Switzerland is a chapel built in memory of a loved one.

Egidio Cattaneo, a rich local entrepreneur who owns the Monte Tamaro cableway at the Canton of Ticino in Switzerland, commissioned Swiss architect Mario Botta to put up a chapel honoring the former's late wife. Providing a whole mountain for the architect, Botta opted to build the Santa Maria degli Angeli Chapel near the cable car station at the top.

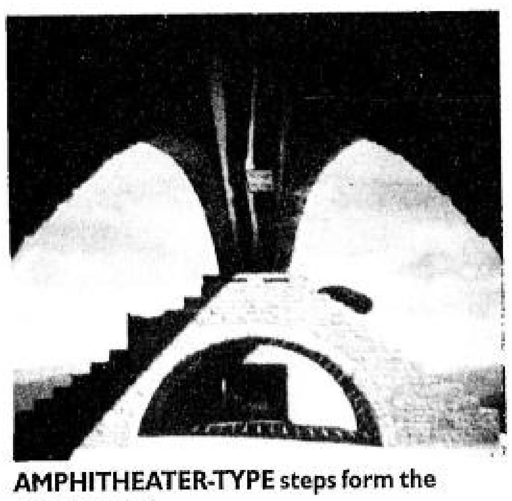
The intricate structure has a long bridge that goes from the ground up to the edge of the cliff, the end of which has a small balcony with a cross. From the balcony, a pair of amphitheater-type steps, which also form the chapel's roof, lead the visitor to the lower level onto a smaller bridge and finally to the reflecting glass door of the cylinder.

Botta then collaborated with artist Enzo Cucchi for a series of engravings on the theme of St. Mary of the Angels to whom the chapel is also dedicated. Cucchi also painted the beautiful blue fresco of two hands which turns white when it catches light.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



THE BLUE fresco of two hands turns white when it captures light.



AMPHITHEATER-TYPE steps form the chapel's roof.

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Too much liability and too much business downtime just to have a new roof!

Now, Puyat Steel Corporation, the pioneer in the galvanizing industry and manufacturer of innovative roofing profiles and engineered bulding systems, lets you get rid of those nightmares with the new APO ROOF RETROFITTER.

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Most recently, the management of MAKRO Cainta made a decision to re-roof using the APO ROOF RETROFITTER. The Apo Roof Retrofitter easily afforded them the convenience of re-roofing without interrupting their usual business activities all in a span of 20 days for a total roof area of 11,000 sq. mtrs. No risks, only big savings in time and business opportunities!

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Refresh, not Retire, at South Forbes Bali Mansions

Those who are nearing retirement may plan to escape the urban jungle, retreat to the suburbs, and be inactive. They may just watch TV, listen to jazz or good ol' rock 'n roll, or read novels all day. Occasionally they may get a surprise visit from friends or family members:

But retirement can be more enjoyable if retirees choose the right project. "We have creatively put together a whole project with retirees, their families, and their specific needs in mind. At South Forbes, health, entertainment, and sports choices promote the total well-being of retirees," Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng asserts.

The living room of the Bali Mansions Coralia model unit features wide windows and Asian furniture accented by colorful fabrics.

Set to rise in a 250-hectare enclave in the rolling hills of the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay residential and business hub, South Forbes boasts of excellent amenities that seek to promote quality lives and extend the longevity of retirees – or should we call them "refreshees."

With health being a primary concern of refreshees, specialist clinics and doctors along the main avenue of South Boulevard can be consulted. If they need more intensive care, the Southern Luzon Medical Center is just nearby.

While sports such as tennis and swimming can undoubtedly rejuvenate their spirits, the best sport on offer at South Forbes is golf. South Forbes boasts of its own 18-hole, world-class golf course designed by the International Management Group (IMG). Entertainment and dining choices also abound at South Forbes. Restaurants here serve the best of American, Chinese, and Japanese cuisine, among others. Female groups can sink into the latest updates in the social circle while in bars, whereas the male set can savor prime cigars and spirits in South Forbes' wine cellars. Those who need to entertain business and personal guests, meanwhile, can book them at South Forbes' very own hotel and conference center.

Relaxing Residence: Experience resort-inspired living only at South Forbes Bali Mansions.

South Forbes is now offering one ideal community for refreshees: South Forbes Bali Mansions. These Asian-inspired houses exude a rejuvenating atmosphere as perfected by the world-famous resorts of Bali. Wooden frames, wide windows, and spacious interiors give resident refreshees a distinctly tropical feel. With the Mansions' direct link to the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club, refreshees can enjoy their free golf membership regularly. The pleasures of golf are literally just one short grass paver drive away.

Here at South Forbes Bali Mansions, the refreshing years may just be the best years of your life – at a worthwhile investment of as low as P18,000 a month! To find out more about the exhilarating experiences that abound in South Forbes Golf City, please make a leisurely call to (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 and visit www.southforbes.com.

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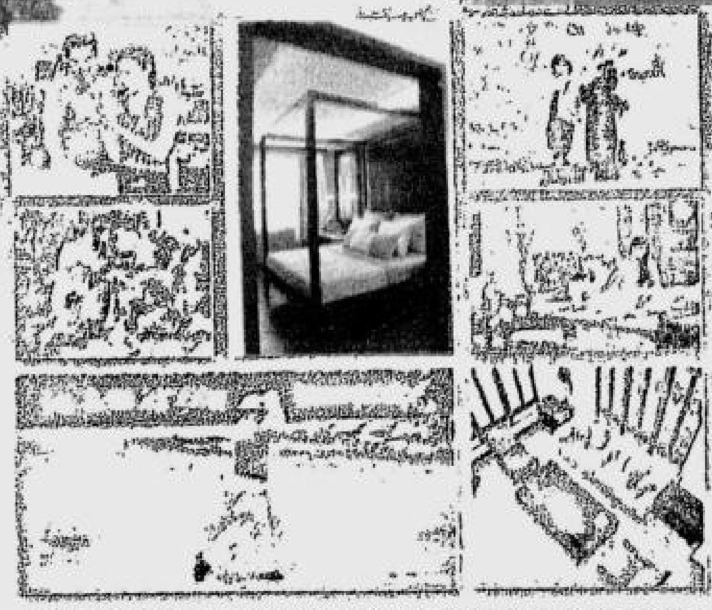

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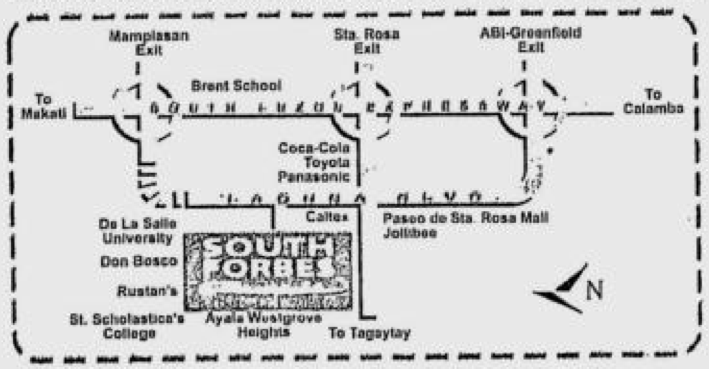

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PROPERTY

Rising oil prices to push world construction boom

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE DEMAND for construction workers abroad will intensify in 2006 due to the increase of worldwide construction activities brought about by higher oil prices.

This was disclosed by Sammy Lazo, first vice president of the Philippine Constructors Association Inc., who explained that the high demands for energy worldwide would increase the funds of oil-producing countries for more construction projects.

Skills training

Therefore, Lazo's advice is: It would be good for the government to step up the skills training of Filipino workers this early.

"As of now, our skill level is already old. It is something that the government should think about. It's not being given attention," he observed.

Lazo said that in the worldwide market, workers' skills have to meet international standards. Philippine standards, as well as manufacturing facilities, should

RISING/ B3-2

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When I saw my daughter's eyes widen at the sight of the baby pawikan, I realized that life's biggest event was in the moment! That look was priceless and I was changed forever.

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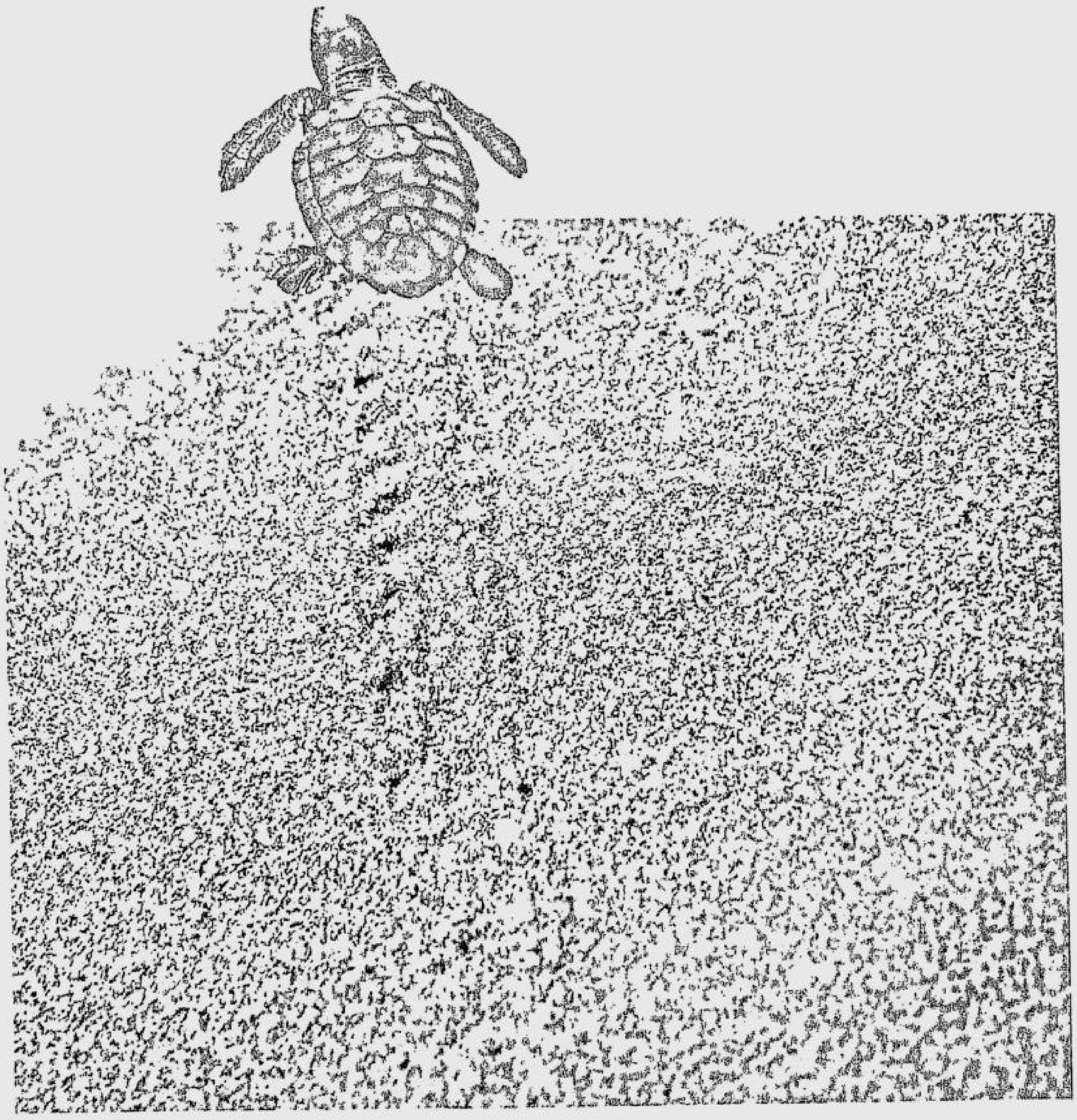
By Ayala Land, naturally.



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Construction show still a go despite political turmoil

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE LONGEST-RUNNING construction event in Southeast Asia is scheduled to proceed as planned in November.

Organizers have stressed political uncertainties would not stop the Nov. 10 to 13 event, with as many as 600 exhibitors from 15 countries already expressing their participation.

Construction technologies

The Philippine International Construction, Building Materials and Equipment Exhibition and Technology Forum, or Philconstruct, will occupy 15,000 square meters of indoor and outdoor space at the World Trade Center and the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The exhibit will focus on construction technologies and their affordability, energy-saving devices, environment protection and safety applications.

Philconstruct, which attracted 30,293 trade visitors and buyers last year, garnered a 91 percent satisfaction rating from the 258 exhibitors.

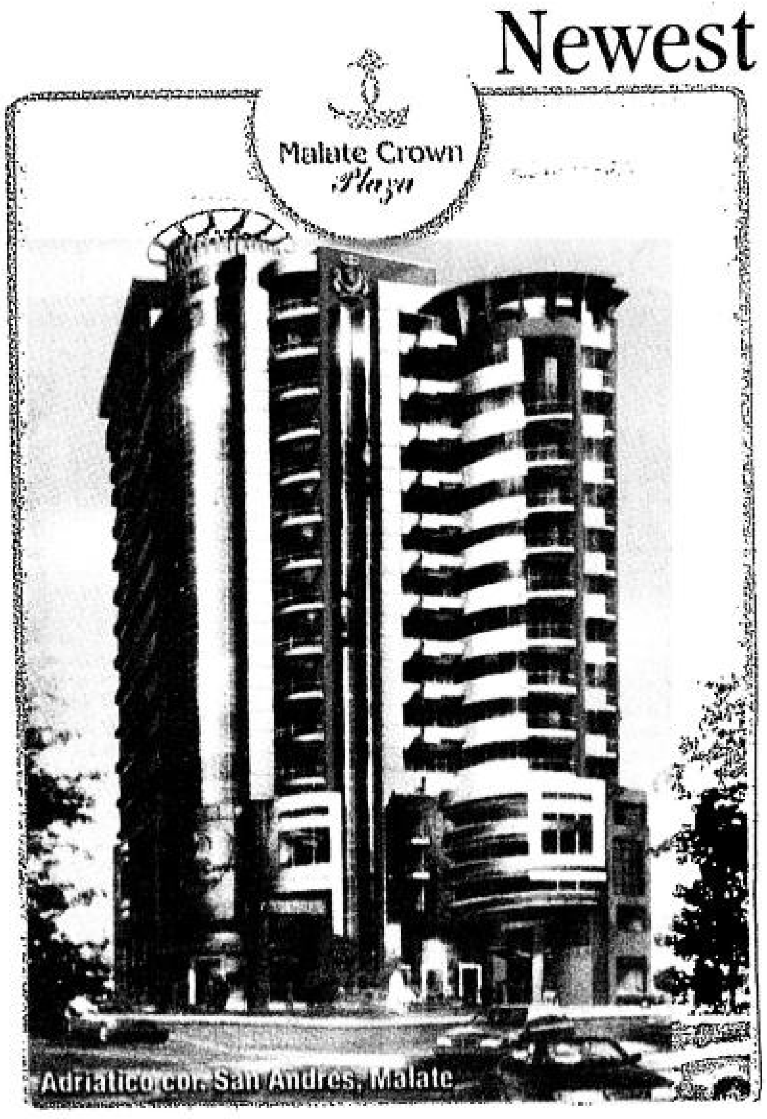
Optimism

Sammy Lazo, Philippine Constructors Association's first vice president, said he is optimistic that the construction industry is on its way up, even though the political climate has become a damper.

Lazo bases his optimism on construction firm Engineering Equipment Inc.'s 2004 revenue of P2.8 billion. Lazo is EEI president.

"EEI is projecting P4 billion in revenue this year. This could be an indication for other construction companies as well," he said.

Newest landmark in Malate


Malate Crown Plaza
Adriatico cor. San Andres, Malate

CONDO units at the Malate Crown Plaza, the latest project of Malate Royale Development Corp., was turned over to buyers recently.

WAKE up to picturesque mornings and spend serene afternoons gazing at the wonderful Manila Bay sunset. These and more are offered by the Malate Crown Plaza, a 17-story premier residential and commercial condominium.

Situated right at the heart of Malate, the Malate Crown Plaza is at the corner of Adriatico and San Andres streets. At this vantage point of Manila's tourist belt, it provides residents convenient access to malls, schools, a church and a market. Leisure and entertainment choices also abound with malls like Robinsons Place Manila and Harrison Plaza, just a few minutes away, while Remedios Circle and its row of bars and restaurants are just around the corner.

Malate Crown Plaza is beside Malate Catholic School and near San Andres Market, Malate Church, Aristocrat Restaurant, Rajah Sulayman Park and the newly developed Roxas Boulevard Bay Walk. With all these attractions, it is truly an ideal residence where everything you need is within easy reach.

Features

Malate Crown Plaza features condominium residences ranging from studio-type, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units. It also offers excellent amenities designed for a cosmopolitan lifestyle, including a swimming pool, badminton court, gym and sauna as well as a roof deck garden.

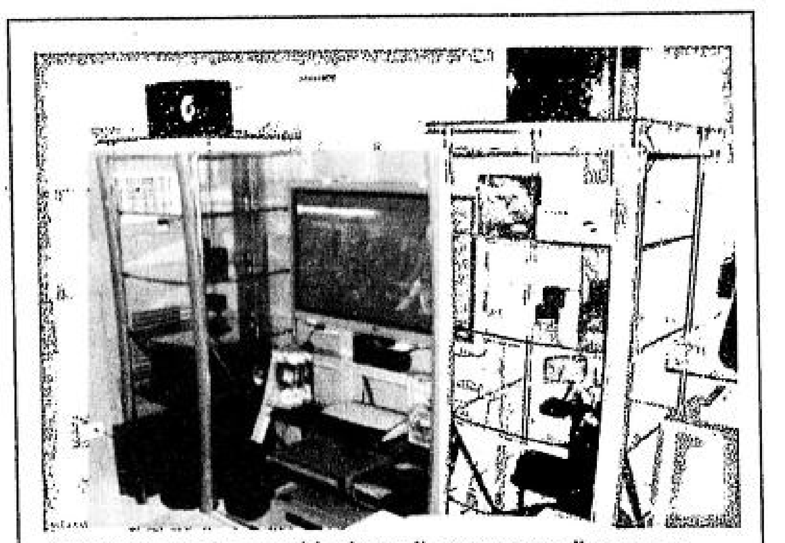
Apart from having a spacious lobby, a high ceiling and ample ventilation and lighting, it is also equipped with a 24-hour security and CCTV monitoring system, two scenic elevators, one service elevator, a three-level parking space, a standby generator and a fire alarm and sprinkler system, among others. These features truly make it an ideal home for businessmen, middle to top executives, retirees, expatriates as well as investors in search of a secure financial decision.

Commercial units

The condominium is also highly suitable for businesses and retail establishments. Commercial spaces are available at the ground floor, basement and mezzanine that would be viable for restaurants, convenience stores, coffee shops, banks, music lounge and bars, spa and fitness centers, travel and tours, among others.

Residential units are attractively priced to appeal to practical home buyers and investors. They are priced at P1.5 million and above.

Malate Crown Plaza, which is already 80 percent sold out, is now almost complete and units were already turned over to its buyers last May. For inquiries, please call (632) 245-4509, (632) 245-4832 or (0917) 5309452.



BOSE'S technology enables its audio system to adjust to any room size and produce the best sound possible

Audio system distributor eyes home developers as next partner

By Charles E. Buban

WITH THE OPENING of another showroom, this time in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Eleksis Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Bose entertainment systems in the country, is now looking beyond wowing would-be buyers in malls.

"The idea came when I visited a model unit of one residential project. I noticed the excellent interior design and commendable choice of furniture and appliances. And yet, the developers overlooked one aspect, which is their choice of home entertainment system," recalls Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing.

He thought that with the premium price the unit commands, it should carry an equally premium home entertainment system that may even entice more home buyers.

Integral

"An excellent home entertainment system is integral to any home design so I am planning on meeting a number of developers to discuss this idea," So says.

Besides, So believes convincing developers to install Bose entertainment system in one of their model units is one way for Eleksis Marketing to reach more clients.

"It's like setting our entertainment system in an environment that our would-be client would readily appreciate: that is in their future home," So explains.

He reveals Bose entertainment system has several features that complements any home size and design.

Prefering simplicity

Says So: "Nowadays, homeowners prefer simplicity. No longer is it acceptable to plant a pair of monster speakers in the middle of the living room or want several speakers cluttering their room." "And why should blocky equipment take up space that could be better used?" he asks.

He believes Bose's streamlined and compact designs allow its home entertainment systems to blend more easily with any home decor, thus letting the entertainment—rather than the bulky equipment—take center stage.

So presents another technology that makes Bose entertainment system adjust to any type of room.

Flexible

"ADAPTiQ audio calibration system is so flexible, interior designers or even the regular homeowners will no longer need to move furniture or add anything to the floor, walls and ceiling just to get the best possible sound," So reveals.

He says ADAPTiQ will adjust the audio system so it will produce the best sound in any given environment.

According to him, the ADAPTiQ system was developed to analyze any room, and then it adjusts the entertainment system for a consistent, high-quality performance each time one listens.

"All that is needed is to just sit in up to five of the preferred listening spots and allow the ADAPTiQ system to automatically make the necessary adjustments," So reveals.

The Columns nearing completion

THE TURNOVER dates of condo units at The Columns, Ayala Avenue, draw nearer and the calendar approaches the completion of construction.

Tower 1 of the three-tower condominium from Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala company, now stands at its full 30-story height. It was topped off in October 2004 and is scheduled to be turned over to its eager residents in June 2006. Finishing works, such as the installation of wood parquet and ceramic tile flooring, interior painting and fixtures, have reached the 28th floor.

Tower 2 is also at its full 30-story height with finishing works at the 26th floor. Tower 2 was topped off in March 2005 and will be turned over to its unit owners in February 2007.

Tower 3, begun only late last year, is already at its 19th floor, and will be ready for turnover in February 2008.

The sales for The Columns have been phenomenally successful. Tower 1 has been completely sold out since four months after sales opened while Towers 2 and 3 have few units remaining. This is the last chance for those who still wish to take advantage of the unique combination of an Ayala Avenue address, world-class design and features, the Ayala Land reputation and affordable prices.

Antel perfecting the art of building theme, lifestyle communities

TO MOST developers, the esthetics and functionality of construction projects—whether it is a high rise or a community sprawl—is the most important consideration to the success of the development. But Antel Land Holdings Inc. (Antel) takes this practice a bit further, by packaging each project with a theme and lifestyle that fits perfectly with the needs of its target market.

Antel, a steadily growing veteran of the industry, has focused its enterprise on perfecting the art of building theme and lifestyle communities. This is a paradigm shift from the traditional developer practice of simply building and selling projects to ensuring that each project is packaged around a certain form of lifestyle concept that fits the area where the high-rise or community is located.

Said Antel Group of Companies marketing director Felino G. Lao: "In the quest to build the most modern, most stylish, most architecturally-sound and pleasing structures and communities, most developers tend to overlook one of the biggest reasons we build—the life of the people who will soon occupy our projects. That is why Antel shifted its approach to providing not only the structures but also a total package that includes a new lifestyle that can be enjoyed by our future locators and residents.

"We want them to create their new homes and discover new and better ways to live life in the buildings and communities that we build," he added.

Notable projects

This goal has driven Antel into producing some of the most successful development projects in recent years. Among its most notable accomplishments are the 200-hectare Antel Grand Village in Gen. Trias, Cavite, which is touted as an urbanized oasis set amid a provincial backdrop of small-town Philippines; and Centropolis Communities, which is an affordable high-rise resort and urban club in Sucat, Parañaque, created for those who love the life in the bustling metropolis.

Antel's other projects are corporate enclaves, built with the conveniences required by thriving businesses and companies.

Antel is already hard at work creating another theme and lifestyle enclave right in the heart of Makati. When finished, the 1.7-hectare development on Makati Avenue will feature a residential tower that will allow its residents to experience a lifestyle that is comparable to the features, amenities and services of a five-star hotel. The development will also feature a bustling mall and an entertainment pavilion, ensuring that all who live within the community need not go far for their shopping and nightlife needs.

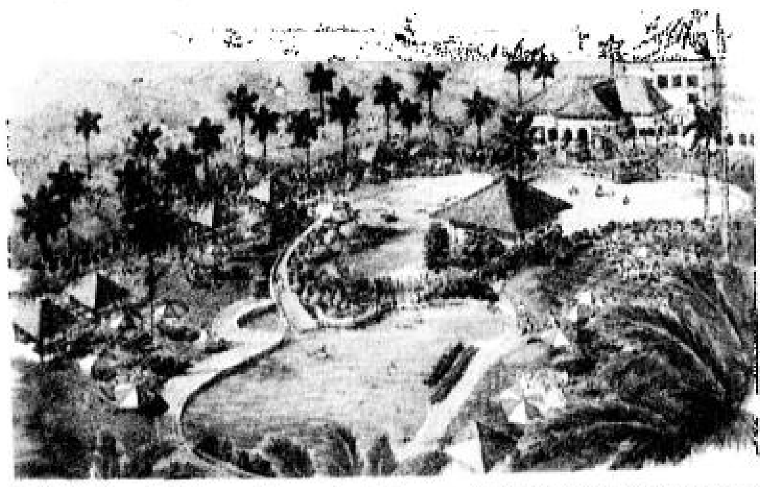
New techniques

Antel adheres to the practice of modern construction techniques that focuses on "structure by design," a philosophy that allows flexible design elements without compromising the safety of those within. Its new project in Makati promises to feature a beamless and column-free design, an Australian and Japanese construction technology, that will allow more room for interior modeling and enhance its fire-proof and earthquake-resistant qualities.

"Quality is always our highest concern and our greatest commitment to all our clients. Because we want them to invest in us, therefore we spared no expense when investing in our projects. We want our projects to be the finest examples of realty development and its amenities truly world class," revealed Lao.

Thus far, Antel has greatly contributed in the history of realty development creating three corporate buildings and five residential condominiums, two subdivisions totaling 250 hectares in Cavite plus its joint-venture developments with the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club and the MRT III Edsa.

THE CENTROPOLIS boasts of a European-inspired architecture.



ANTEL Grand Village will soon host the country's largest swimming pool.

Rising oil prices to push world construction boom

From page B3-1

conform to international standards.

Rinzi Fadrinan, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority head for information, said the standard for workers' skills is based on what the construction sector dictates.

Fadrinan added that the Philippine Constructors' Association is even part of those that formulate training skills for construction workers' curriculum.

New jobs

Tesda is mandated to deliver new jobs to Filipinos.

Lazo, who is also president of EEI Corp, disclosed that EEI has a joint company in Saudi Arabia.

He said the demand overseas will come from all areas of the energy cycle: from exploration, refining to the storage of crude and at the powerplants, the processing of gas, virtually all facets of activities that will have as the end result the production of energy.

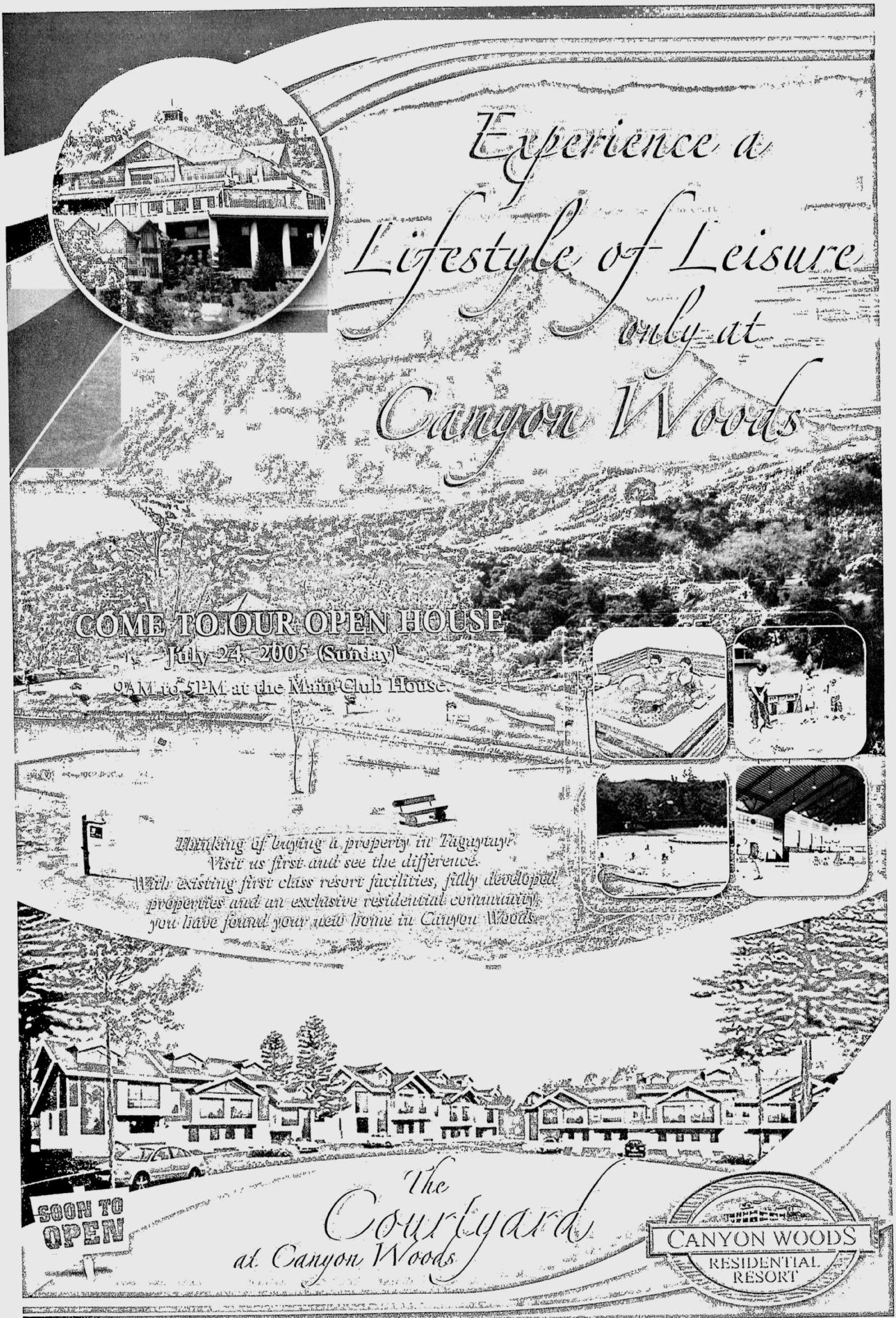
Lazo said there are also movements in the Philippines with respect to exploration.

"There has been a forecast that if we don't build power plants by 2007 or 2008, the Philippines would be back to its power problems," he added. Lazo referred to the power crisis during the early 1990s that resulted in massive daily blackouts nationwide.

Unfortunately, Lazo said, because of policies, some power refineries have closed. One oil company has been holding on to capital expenditures because it is now cheaper to import from Singapore and other countries.

"The government should decide on whether to give incentives so that people will bring the production facilities to the Philippines," Lazo said.

He added that if there's no value added for oil companies operating a refinery in the Philippines, the oil companies would just bring in oil from their plants in Singapore, Malaysia or Indonesia.



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Brittany Corp. reflecting a higher quality of life

CONVENTIONAL wisdom clings to the traditional belief that the purchase of real estate is dictated by only three factors: location, location and location. Times have changed, however. And while location remains a major aspect for consideration, more factors come into play before a buyer is advised to sink in his life savings into a piece of property that will serve as his castle for the present and his legacy for the future.

Location and security, without doubt, are vital aspects when deciding on this investment. The property should be at a reasonable distance from the work place, schools, and commercial district, thereby cutting down both travel time and gasoline expenses.

Roads from the property to the highway must be well-maintained and brightly lit for safe travel at all times. Amenities should be provided to ensure that the community is conducive to raising a family for the young owners. But it must also be sensitive to the special requirements of clients in their golden years.

The architecture and masterplan of the community should reflect the highly refined taste of its homeowners. But most important of all, the developer must be committed to maintaining the integrity of the concept of the property which is precisely what attracted the clients to invest in the first place.

More than mere shelter from the storm, Brittany Corp. understands that a home must provide for the complex requirements of today's more sophisticated homeowner. It firmly believes that an improved quality of life should be the fuel driving the investment of its clients and its developments are tailor-made to offer precisely just that.

BRITTANY Bay's commercial area

Courtyards of Portofino

A massive development spanning the greater part of the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Cavite-Laguna (LPMCL) Link Road, Portofino is Brittany's response to the call of the good life. Inaugurated in December 2003, the 14-km, six-lane National Highway stretches from Ayala Alabang to Molino Road in Bacoor, Cavite.

Through Portofino, Brittany Corp. created an Italian community that sits comfortably on local soil and caters to the homeowner who understands that style and function can blissfully coexist.

The development includes three enclaves: Portofino Heights, Portofino South and Courtyards of Portofino. The architecture is inspired by romantic Italy with its sun-drenched colors, cobblestones, charming arches, and a strong sense of openness that only comes with a thorough understanding of light and space. Among its most important features are the casita where the master of the house can enjoy privacy and an open area where the family can gather.

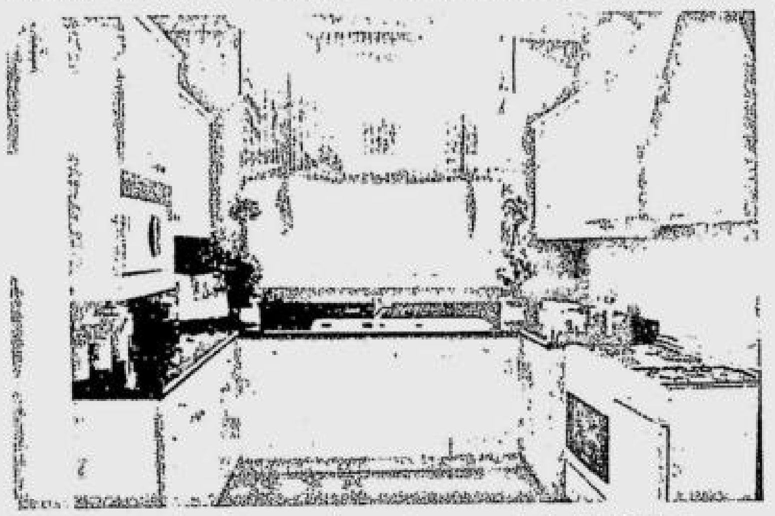
The entire Portofino development boasts of premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community.

Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round-the-clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

Though centrally located, Portofino is not as easily accessible to nonresidents. Apart from natural barriers such as creeks and waterways, a perimeter fence has been installed to separate the development from other properties. Security personnel also closely monitor the vicinity to ensure the safety of the residents.

Various amenities are offered for the pleasure of its residents such as a multipurpose clubhouse, pools, courts, gym and other common property development features. At the heart of this development is a 15-hectare commercial district to service the needs of the residents. Shopping would literally be a skip and a hop away. Other key commercial areas and schools in nearby Las Piñas and Alabang are merely five minutes from the property.

With all these features, Brittany not only created a dream community but a solid investment for its clients as well. For Portofino Heights, the property is currently rated at P14,200 per square meter—a significant appreciation from its preselling price in 2002 at P11,000 per square meter. Property prices at Courtyards of Portofino (house and lot packages) are as follows: Cezanne (193-sq-m floor area, 224-sq-m lot area) at P9.6 million; Rembrandt (250-sq-m floor area, 500-sq-m lot area) at P17 million; Raphael (249-sq-m floor area, 306-sq-m lot area) at P13.6 million; and Monet (233-sq-m floor area, 270-sq-m lot area) at P11.9 million.



WHIP up amazing dinners and sumptuous snacks in the kitchen.

Brittany Bay

Understanding that the pursuit for an improved quality of life goes well beyond the boundaries of one's home, Brittany Corp. offers Brittany Bay—a proud community of neighborhoods established to heed the call for urban renewal. The development stands in defiance to the overcrowded layout of the metropolis with generic residences hidden behind high gates.

The development is strategically located at the Sucat and Bicutan Interchanges on South Luzon Expressway with the Laguna de Bay situated to the east. The 50-hectare property is host to four communities meant to create a new "lifescape"—a concept for a higher quality of life that is also affordable.

The communities include La Posada, a single-detached home and lot with picturesque bay windows and porches; Victorianne Row, homes reminiscent of San Francisco's Alamo Square and Viera, a complex of high-rise condos with commercial establishments on the first two stories.

The centerpiece of this community, however, is Brittany Bay's commercial area. Impossible to miss with its location right along the service road just as one gets off the toll gates, its neo-Victorian architecture is a welcome sight for motorists stuck in the South Luzon Expressway's traffic jam. Its towers serve as beacons calling out to the weary and offering an oasis where ties may be loosened and conversations could last the night while nursing a bottle of beer. Its present locators include Grappa's, Dencio's and Figaro. A promenade and view deck are incorporated in the design, perfect for a romantic evening under the stars.

Life is priceless. And for Brittany Corp., discerning between being alive and living a life is the key to an improved quality of life. For when the minute details have been taken cared of, it becomes easier to appreciate a patch of green grass and a ray of golden sunshine.

(Property previews may be arranged at 850-6986, 850-2868, 850-3084.)

The Suites phase 2 opens at Mt. Malarayat

AFTER COMPLETELY selling out all the one-bedroom and studio units in Phase 1, the Active Group recently celebrated the groundbreaking of Phase 2 of The Suites at Mount Malarayat in Lipa City.

At the groundbreaking are Active Group president Antonio V. Turalba Jr., vice chair Cristina V. Turalba, Active Group vice chair and chair Antonio A. Turalba, Active Marketing Brokers Network Inc. (Ambni) sales director Dorothy Lucasan, Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club golf director Mike Carr and Ambni sales director Josephine Ramirez.

Situated at the foot of the spectacular Malarayat mountain range, The Suites is a development within the world-class Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates.

It is designed as a cluster of first-class, low-rise residential condominiums with luxurious amenities that offer gracious living for contemporary lifestyles.

The first building in Phase 2 has 34 studio units with balconies that afford unit owners a view of the large property's serene natural surroundings.

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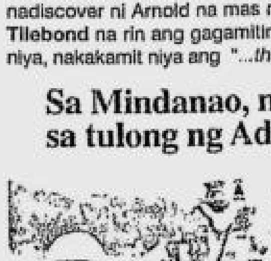

BUILDING EXPERTS AGREE ON ONE TRUSTED BRAND ---ADDMIX

Sa housing units sa Laguna at Cavite... pinagsama ang kalidad at tamang presyo sa tulong ng substantial savings mula sa AddMix Plus!

Puno ng magaganda't makabagong idea si **Arch. Alejandro V. Pascua, Technical Management Officer ng Earth + Style Corporation.**

Bilang tagapamahala ng value engineering sa Earth + Style, naniniwala siya na maaaring ipagsama ang kalidad at tamang presyo sa pagtatayo ng isang matagumpay na proyekto. Napatunayan niya ito nang gumamit siya ng **AddMix Plus** sa eleganteng 2-storey housing units ng Earth + Style sa Biñan, Laguna at Cavite. Sa ready-to-use powder admixture na gamit sa pagsesemento ng hollow blocks, nakatipid siya ng katamtamang gastos sa semento!

Walang sakripisyo sa ganda, galing, kalidad at tatag ng proyekto, pero may katipiran sa budget sa AddMix Plus. Kaya nasabi ng ekspertong si Arch. Pascua na walang tigil sa paghanap ng makabagong paraan at abot-kayang materiales para sa kanyang magagandang proyekto. *"I haven't found anything cheaper and better than AddMix Plus."*

Tipid sa oras, budget at labor, nadiscover sa Iloilo.

Mahalaga kay **Arnold H. Dupit, civil engineer at contractor sa Iloilo**, na matapos ang proyekto sa tamang deadline. Ngunit bilang structural engineer sa pagtayo ng maraming hotel sa Iloilo, tulad ng La Fiesta Hotel at Four Seasons Hotel, na umaasa sa tourist market, alam rin nyang di kailanman maisakripisyo ang tatag at kalidad ng trabaho para lang makatipid sa oras. Kaya laking pasasalamat niya na nadiscover nya ang mga produkto ng **AddMix**.

Sa kanyang kasalukuyang hinahawakang road projects or high-end housing projects sa Iloilo, kung saan nahaharap na naman siya sa pagsubok na matapos ang proyekto di lamang sa oras kundi matapos rin itong matatag, maganda at maipagmamalaki niya, gumamit siya ng **AddMix Ultra, Easy at Tilebond.** Sa **AddMix Ultra**, nakatipid siya sa oras at trabahador dahil mas madaling ihalo ang semento at mas mabilis ang curing time. Sa **AddMix Easy**, ang admixture na gamit sa mortar at plastering, nadiscover ni Arnold na mas napapadali ang palitada. Sa pagkabit ng tiles, siguradong **AddMix Tilebond** na rin ang gagamitin niya dahil tiwala si Arnold na sa bawat AddMix product na gamit niya, nakakamit niya ang *"...the same great time, money and labor-saving qualities"* na hanap niya.

Sa Mindanao, may tulay sa magandang buhay sa tulong ng AddMix!

Hindi naging hadlang kay **Engineer Brenda B. Fuentes** ang pagiging isang babae para makatulong sa pagpapatayo at pag-aayos ng mga tulay sa Mindanao. Bilang **Project-in-Charge ng Allado Construction**, kasama sa maraming matagumpay na proyekto ni Engr. Fuentes ang 40-meter Luhib Bridge sa South Cotabato na nagdurugtong sa Sorella sa South Cotabato, sa Lake Cebu, ang 150-meter Kablacan Bridge sa Saranggani, at ngayon ay dalawang kontrata na magbibigay ng 23 na tulay sa mga taga-Mindanao.

Malaki ang naitulong ng **AddMix Ultra**, ang cement fortifier at accelerator, sa pagpapatayo at pagpapatibay ng mga tulay na ito. *"We were able to save as much as 10% on materials because of AddMix"*, sabi niya. Ngunit higit pa rito, mas mabilis matapos ang mga tulay dahil mas mabilis tumigas at lumakas ang istraktura ng tulay. Kaya mas madali itong magagamit ng mga taga-Mindanao, lalo na sa pagtawid ng kanilang mga produkto sa ibang lugar.

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Super! Countdown
14 days 'til the I am Super! awards

natural high

Photography: JAY YAO
The Possibilities of Ordinary Things is at the Silver Lens Gallery, and will run until August 12. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 8160044.

Super! exclusive on Foo Fighters page C2

Jojo Alejar on Must-We, TV? page C2

Be famous with your smile page D

The Final Word from Neil Gaiman page D3

The Yao of Ordinary Things

By Tony Ty

WHEN photographer Irving Penn took close-ups of cigarette butts, he proved that one can turn something ordinary into a work of art; that everything on earth, no matter how dull, rotten or insignificant, can shine if the eyes that observe them see with understanding.

This is exactly the philosophy behind Jay Yao's new show, The Possibilities of Ordinary Things, which opens this month at the Silver Lens Gallery, the only museum-quality space in the country dedicated to photography. Through a series of eleven photographs, Jay manages to open our eyes, and minds, to see what might be mundane to many, transform into what he interprets as limitless. There are barren roads, shorelines and landscapes that occupy barely a fourth of the photographs, while the vast blue skies fill up the rest. There are close-ups of stalks, stems and grass, almost encouraging viewers to discover mysteries between the shadows. There are subjects, though barely visible, which command enormous presence.

"The images range from journeys and opportunities to simple moments," Yao says of his calming, introspective work. The images are taken from Australia, Manila, and Florida. "They're mainly about a journey, and of simple moments. Like rain falling on water."

The show also explores his own sojourn from his field of choice, fashion photography, to something he finds a bit more different, fine art.

It is a move he makes seamlessly.

Simple moments

"I'm fascinated by the contrast between the collaborative and performance based aspects of fashion, and the more introverted direction of fine-art photography," says Jay, who was born in Vancouver, BC, did his last two years of high school in the Philippines, and finished college at Hampshire College in the US, before finally moving to New York to take a dip into his dream.

"I've been pursuing fashion photography since I've been in New York for a little over two years. I love the spirit of collaboration in fashion, and how we can create moments of fantasy, or little narratives," he says. "Though, I don't really believe in merging my fine-art and fashion. Maybe during conceptualizing the sets do I integrate some of the fine-art into fashion. But generally, I prefer to keep both separate in a sense."

But fine art and fashion do mix, and Jay would like to be known in both fields. The former, however, is closer to his nature than the latter.

"I think my personality is usually quiet, and somewhat introverted unless I'm around friends. Perhaps my personality of relating to new spaces or being chameleon-like comes out in my photos."

The disparate subjects of these photographs include a stranded boat, a road in winter and a couple on a beach, taken in Sydney, Manila, and Pensacola, Florida.

"They are personal images that are about the ordinary. Rain, an open field, and Bondi Beach are three of the images included. The work is more introspective, and about the opportunities in the world, and the dreams we carry."

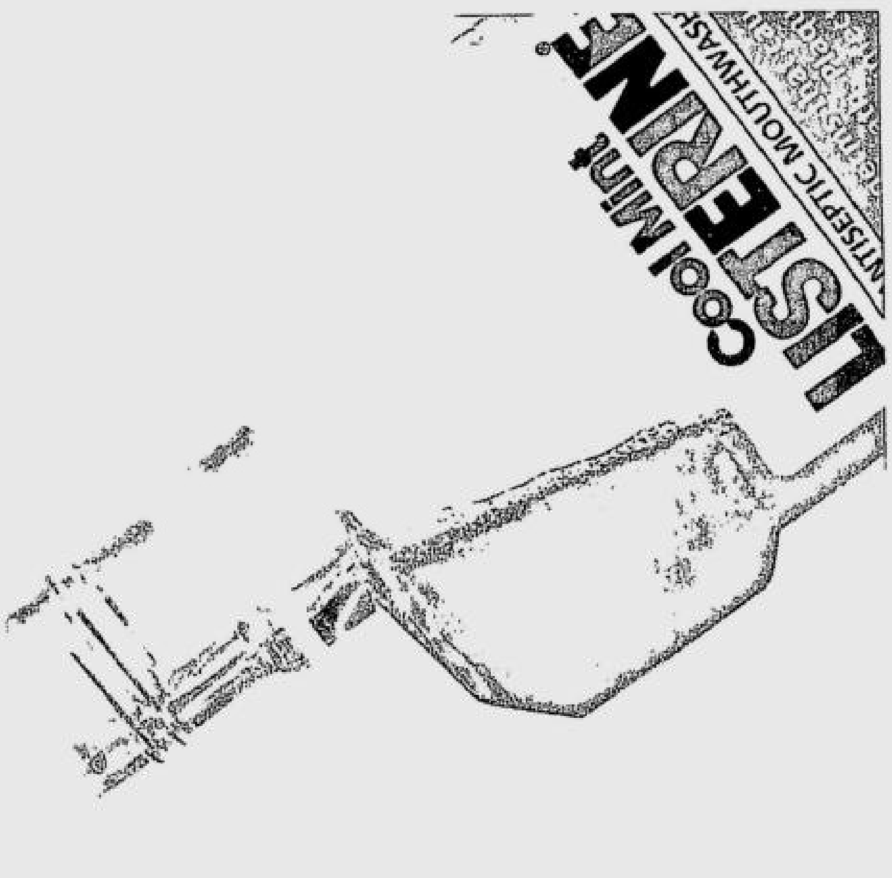
"I came across these subjects through a lot of walking. I feel as though the best way to understand a city, an area, or a neighborhood, is to walk. Like, I didn't really get to see as much as I wanted in the Philippines. It's impossible to explore! It takes a lifetime. I did visit some of the old places that I enjoyed walking through, such as Divisoria etc.," he says. "On the whole, though, these images remind me of missed opportunities, and the possibilities that we encounter in life."

My favorite things

And Jay continues to grab opportunities as much as he can. Currently, his work is on display at The Art Connexions Project in Malaysia with the Goethe Institute; and, he is continuing to build his fashion portfolio. But it is his fine art that continues to shine.

When an abandoned boat or a parked car are seen as just cigarette butts, people deprive themselves of realizing their limitlessness. Jay's work is all about possibilities.

Ultimately, an idea is good if it makes us see ordinary things in an entirely different perspective. This philosophy is what Jay's show is about. It's there to open our eyes to new ways of looking at things, open our minds to new ways of thinking, and open our hearts to new ways of understanding. Only then can we find the freedom not just to live, and dream, and express ourselves, but to stand up for the ordinary things, and moments, that matter to us most.



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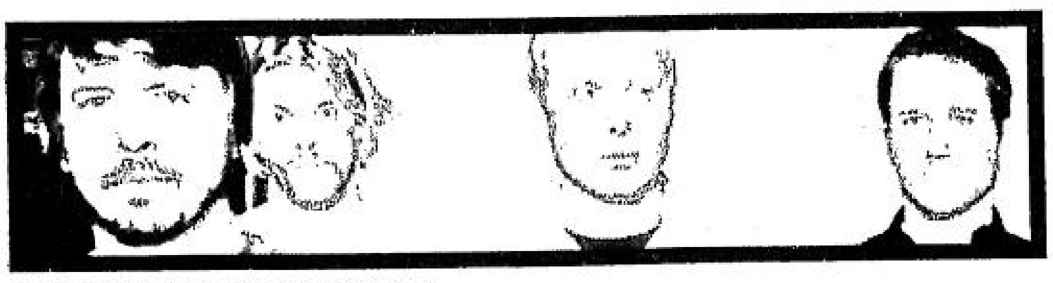


SUPER! EXCLUSIVE

Fighting Foo with a razor-sharp sense of pop inscription

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

THE FOOS have been unswerving victors on the hit books, roiling up contagious bits of awesome juvenilia.

THE DEMISE of Nirvana in 1995 because of Kurt Cobain's suicide did not obstruct drummer Dave Grohl, converting a sandy assortment of back catalog bedroom hits into a live incarnation of a posse, the Foo Fighters. With such sonic pop anthems as "My Hero" and "Big Me," Grohl has proven that this venture with the rock band was not just a Post-Nirvana-hyped-up Vanilla Ice.

Bonding heavy guitars with diverse punked sensibilities with a razor-sharp sense of pop inscription, the Foos—Grohl, drummer Taylor Hawkins, bassist Nate Mendel and guitarist Chris Shiflett—have been unswerving victors on the hit books, roiling up contagious bits of awesome juvenilia.

Their new-fangled double album, "In Your Honor," contains a disc of acoustic songs, with notable guest collaborators like Led Zepp's John Paul Jones, Norah Jones and Queens of the Stone Age leadfellow John Homme. The second disc features ten of the most powerful Foo tracks ever carved, including their first single, "Best of You."

Whittling down from a load of 40 songs, frontman Grohl says that this is "by far the most ambitious project I have ever had anything to do within my entire life." He illustrates the songs with a sense of sinister delight: "There are subtleties. There are complexities. There are extremities. There are familiarities. There is orchestration."

MUSIC is supposed to be enjoyed regardless of what it is.

In an exclusive chat with Super!, Foo's guitarist Chris Shiflett—who also currently plays in punk rock cover band Me First and the Gimme Gimmes and his own side-project, Jackson United—talks about their latest work, and about "seeing things differently and understanding things better."

The last time you guys came here was a decade ago! When are you coming back? That's a good question! I don't know, I've never been to the Philippines—but I'd love to perform there, heck, I'd love to do an Asian tour! We did do some gigs in Japan, but not like a tour or something. But tomorrow we're going to Moscow, and that's the first time we're going there—so it's great, we get to go to new places.

The Foo Fighters have been around for 10 years. Do you guys get this "senior status" among other bands? Well, we're always the oldest ones in festivals—we're the grandpas at the side chugging down whisky, screaming at everybody.

Since you guys have been around for so long, what do you think does it take to really make it? Get along. You know, you're four different guys, with four different agendas, and four different ways to do something. You guys have to love doing music, too.

In whose honor is "In Your Honor?" It's in your honor. We made it about you *(laughs)*. Well, Dave wrote most of the songs—so you're probably better off asking him—but I know he wrote most of it on the Kerry campaign last year.

The second part of "In Your Honor" is acoustic. Alanis Morisette is releasing an acoustic version of Jagged Little Pill. Is there an acoustic wave forming? We've always been fans of acoustic music. Most of our songs are written on an acoustic guitar. So the acoustic record was something that came natural to us.

We read that after finishing the acoustic disc, you guys totally rethought how the rock disc was going to be made. Compared to past albums, how different was the process making the rock disc? Yeah—we were all involved a little more, we were all around more, and we got to work together more. 'Cause before that, like, we'd all just come in separately and record and stuff. But now, it's great 'cause we usually start with a whole bunch of music and widdle it down to the best—those that make the album—so this time it was more of a group project. And it's better that way.

We read Dave and Taylor say that while making all the albums they'd always imagine it to be their last. Is there always a sort of tension during recording? Is it like, something natural? Well, naturally there is tension—you know, you're different people with loads of different ideas. And yeah, well I hear them say that a lot—but I don't share the feeling. For me it's just like, "Ok, we made an album, let's get out and perform our songs."

What's it like being the last person to become a part of the band, joining in 1999? Yeah—I'll always be the new guy—but you know, I don't feel like it.

You finished the video for the first single, "Best of You"—what's it about? I don't know what the f*** it's about *(laughs)*. The director had his vision, and we told him to just run with it. But I loved the video—I just don't know what it's about *(laughs)*.

Do you enjoy making videos? This video was fun—but the others are, like, long and boring. But this one went by really fast. It was easy.

So the band recently took over MTV2 for 24 hours. Don't bother watching it! We were all tired, and didn't know what the f*** we were doing *(laughs)*. But basically, yeah, we were on MTV2 for 24 hours—we controlled the programming and stuff.

Recall your best and worst performances. The worst are at the beginning of the tour, when you haven't played in a while, and you're just trying to get the feel of things. The best are when you don't even have to think of all that shit.

What are the weirdest things people have thrown at you during performances? I don't get a lot of weird stuff. A bottle of piss is bad.

Do any of you have a nasty guilty pleasure—like, does one of you listen to Christina Aguilera? I don't feel guilty about anything. Music is supposed to be enjoyed, you know, regardless of what it is, man.

You guys got to do songs with Norah Jones and Chic Corea—does it surprise you more than the fans? Yeah. I saw our performance with Chic Corea the other night—and I don't

A Super! Exc

interview with Fo

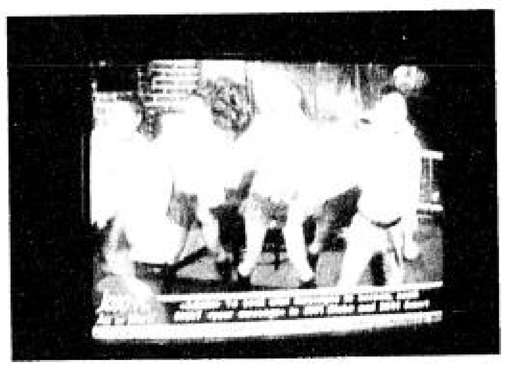
Fighters guitaris

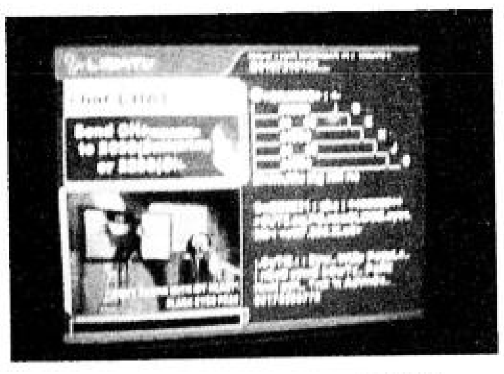
Chris Shiflett

Give

NICOTINA Garden Pavillon
fine dining restaurant locat
Roxas Boulevard in Pa
the foreign affairs depa
nouncing its search for
Man, and Best Soulful

A P100,000 cash
winning male, female
rus group contestant
cash prize awaits the
The contest, which
August 28, will als
runner ups (in the
band categories) wit
prize including the
in Soulful Dancing





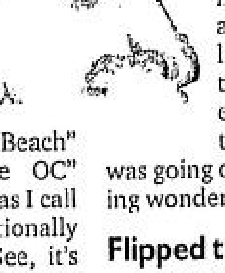
I want my Empty V!

'Dude, these little-known television stations are, like, totally awesome!' said no one

AND I owe it all to Sky Cable. Their revised channel lineup has, just recently, led me down several spanking new avenues of amusement.

A few days ago, I came home expecting to be mildly entertained by the mildly entertaining crap I usually find on afternoon cable TV. So imagine my surprise and utter dismay when, in place of blonde hotties tackling beachside ennui on MTV's "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County," I'm confronted with images of a globally endangered Malaysian tapir (a nocturnal creature that grazes on grass, aquatic vegetation, leaves, buds, soft twigs and fruits of low-growing shrubs—cuddly!) on the National Geographic Channel. Again, not what I hoped for.

Age against the machine



Gino de la Paz

Vacuous popbots

Don't get me wrong. I give a cherry-shaped shit about saving animals I never knew existed in countries I don't care about. But at that precise moment, I really, really wanted to see Kristin, Lo, and their other Billabong-wearing bimbo buddies plan their respective sushi dinner-dates. Or shop for chicken cutlets. Or talk about their uncertain futures set against the backdrop of one of the most loaded SoCal neighborhoods in youth-oriented television, like, ever. (Ooh, the irony!)

Because of vacuous popbots such as them, "Laguna Beach" (though a blatant "The OC" knock-off—"The Faux C," as I call it) has become an unintentionally funny guilty pleasure. (See, it's not true that only guys can be funny. Girls can be funny, too. They just choose to be pregnant sometimes instead. But I digress.) And that day, I wanted my MTV bad and I wanted it *nownownow*. Or *thenthenthen*. You get what I mean.

That should've been my cue to whig out and toss the TV down the stairs or hurl it out the window. (Hey, I've been working out.) But that was the old me. Instead of raging against the machine like a caveman trying to work an iPod, however, I flipped channels to see what the heck was going on. This Zen crap is doing wonders for my soul.

Flipped the channels

Apparently, I still subscribed to the same cable company. The only thing different was Sky Cable suddenly reassigned all their channels. (Like, surprise!) Whether this was the result of intense research involving lab monkeys and a remote control (or not), the line-up shuffle has complicated—nay, sabotaged!—my long-cherished couch commando routine.

This, in turn, jumpstarted my present addiction to totally cheesy shows on completely unheard-of channels. (Bastards!) On the bright side, though, my discovery of such totally cheesy shows on completely unheard-of channels has bequeathed a warm, pop cultural fuzzy to my heretofore jaded hipster heart. Now, my television landscape is wider, brighter and yes, definitely more mind-numbing. Yay!

Opposite of must-see TV

With the demise of the well-loved (and much derided) "Oh! Tokyo" on the WINS channel, a new breed of shows has emerged from the bowels of cable TV hell. If major networks in the US have primetime hits they call "Must-see TV!" here we have micro-budget bombs I call "Must-we TV?"

Yup. Call it a lesson in cultural irrelevancy, but it seems that there are unnerving advancements outside popular cable channels like AXN, Star World, and the Lifestyle Network. Even ABS-CBN and GMA should stop bickering and focus on the competition breathing down their necks. (Fine, said competition may be doing so in their dreams, but still.) And I'm talking about networks that are much worse than ABC 5.

Before y'all tune out and tune into "Desperate Housewives"—I positively hate that show because a) I don't have a vagina and b) the abundance of laugh lines scares me—I'd like to handicap a few obscure stations (and programs) I've come across of late.

Must-we TV?

Don't trip. Viewing the following ch
So chances are, it won't happen to
why they call the TV the idiot box.

NBN 4
(Sky Cable Ch 6)

As a government channel, NBN ha
trappings of a third world bureaucra
dreams, no budget. (Our high schoo
ject had more funding and better looking
ple!) The day I tuned in, I even observed t
the station's frequency was so weak they
transmitted in black and white. (I've never
seen a black and white show before, aside
from the movie "Pleasantville," but t
intentional.) Very retro.

Perhaps sensing their lead in the ra
game (from the bottom), the state-ru
work has hired an Elvis impersonator
come a regular on a morning talk sho
you not. According to a report from t
ciated Press published in the INQUIRER, "[T
King's] pompadour and sideburns were je
black, and he appeared to be in the late pr
of his career, before the weight really start
pile on." Yikes and double yikes.

RPN 9
(Sky Cable Ch 14)

As the *promdi* offshoot of current
vorite ETC, RPN does have a few good sh
up its ragged sleeves. I was thrilled to dis
er "Extreme Makeover Home Edition
(Wednesdays, 9-10 p.m.), for examp
ever, their shows are not marketed prope
since, I assume, most of their mother co
ny's efforts go to producing ads for ETC's
shows and sponsors. (Who can forget th
grammatically astounding Living Well R
istry ad that said, "Let your special OCCA
SION begin with us." And don't get me st
ed on the irritating "Rated Oh!" man-on-
Avenue testimonials.)

But along with the sort-of-good comes
really terrible. I stumbled upon a noontim
show called "On D' Spot" hosted by a pu
and balding dude called Richard Reynoso
Gardenia is a sponsor and at a certain poi
the show, they held a cooking demo whe
they used white bread as a substitute
for—gasp!—lasagna. The horror didn't s
there as the "chef" proceeded to sauté th
meat "feeling." (Human translation: "filli
Wow, who needs authentic Italian cuisine
when I can make a pasta dish that surely
tastes like ass? Sadly, I've been waiting fo
"On D' Spot" since then but the schedule
the show, seems tremendously random.

IBC 13
(Sky Cable Ch 15)

This other shabby station can be sum
up in two words: "Chowtime *Na*!" A daily
think) noontime show hosted by Bobby Y

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

even remember we did that, but I was looking at it and I was thinking, "This is so bizarre."

Who do you dream of performing with? Willie Nelson.

Your latest album is copy protected. But what is it that we're really protecting? Your answer is as good as mine. I think this copy protection thing is the most anti-consumer thing. I don't get what it's protecting. It just keeps people from burning music to their computer—but it's stupid 'cause most people listen to music on their computer. If I were you, I would boycott this technology. And these companies just put it there, without even telling us (the band). We're getting a lot of heat for it—but we had nothing to do with it.

Lately we've seen lots of musicians and celebrities join really noble causes—there's the One campaign, Live 8, and just recently Dave played a benefit for tsunami victims. What is the real effect artists have on world issues? I think musicians and celebrities are there to raise awareness—and it's up to the people to think what they want to. But it isn't just the musicians—actually, everyone has an obligation. And I think that raising awareness is the most effective thing we can do. 'Cause people don't know these issues—especially in America—'cause our policies just shield us from the rest of the world. I think Americans don't know how much our government affects the world. And our mainstream media is a joke—it's so right-wing.

And I think that's the reason why there are so many progressive celebrities and musicians—because we get to travel abroad, and see things differently and understand things better.

Is it a responsibility of artists to talk about these issues? Well, most artists don't. But for me, if you're out there, and you have the opportunity to learn about things, it's your responsibility to share what you've learned—or to promote understanding.

What do the Foo Fighters represent? We're just a hard-working rock band—a blue-collar band—that's refused to be pigeonholed into trends and stuff. We're ourselves. I think that's what the Foo Fighters are.

p your soul

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Soul

Freakier (for the audience) categories.

The winning singer or band must earn the most points, which will be awarded by judges representing Nicotina management (maximum of 150 points) and by the audience (maximum 150 points). Bonus points will also be awarded to the singer and band having the most tasteful songs as determined by the judges representing Nicotina management (50 points for each song).

Nicotina will be accepting interested parties until August 20. For further inquiry kindly contact Annie at 5517906-07.

s has not made my brain spontaneously combust.
ther. One thing's for sure, though. Now I really know

April Boy, Angelica Jones and Mike Chan (Who? Exactly! But he has a lovely Jennifer Aniston circa '96 bob), "Chowtime *Na*!" offers compelling portions like "Miss Teen University 2005" and the Tanduay 69 dance contest. Craptastic!

As a whole, IBC 13 is the preferred network of about 56% of the TV-watching elite. In related news, I totally made up 100% of the aforementioned statistic. Just watch the damn network and I guarantee, you will (not) be amazed.

RJTV
(Sky Cable Ch 20)

If GMA's tagline is "Kapuso," ABS-CBN's is "Kapamilya," RJTV's slogan should be "Kalokohan." I gathered that much after watching their flagship show, "Jojo A All The Way!!" (Mondays-Fridays 9-10 p.m. The two exclamation points are deliberate!!)

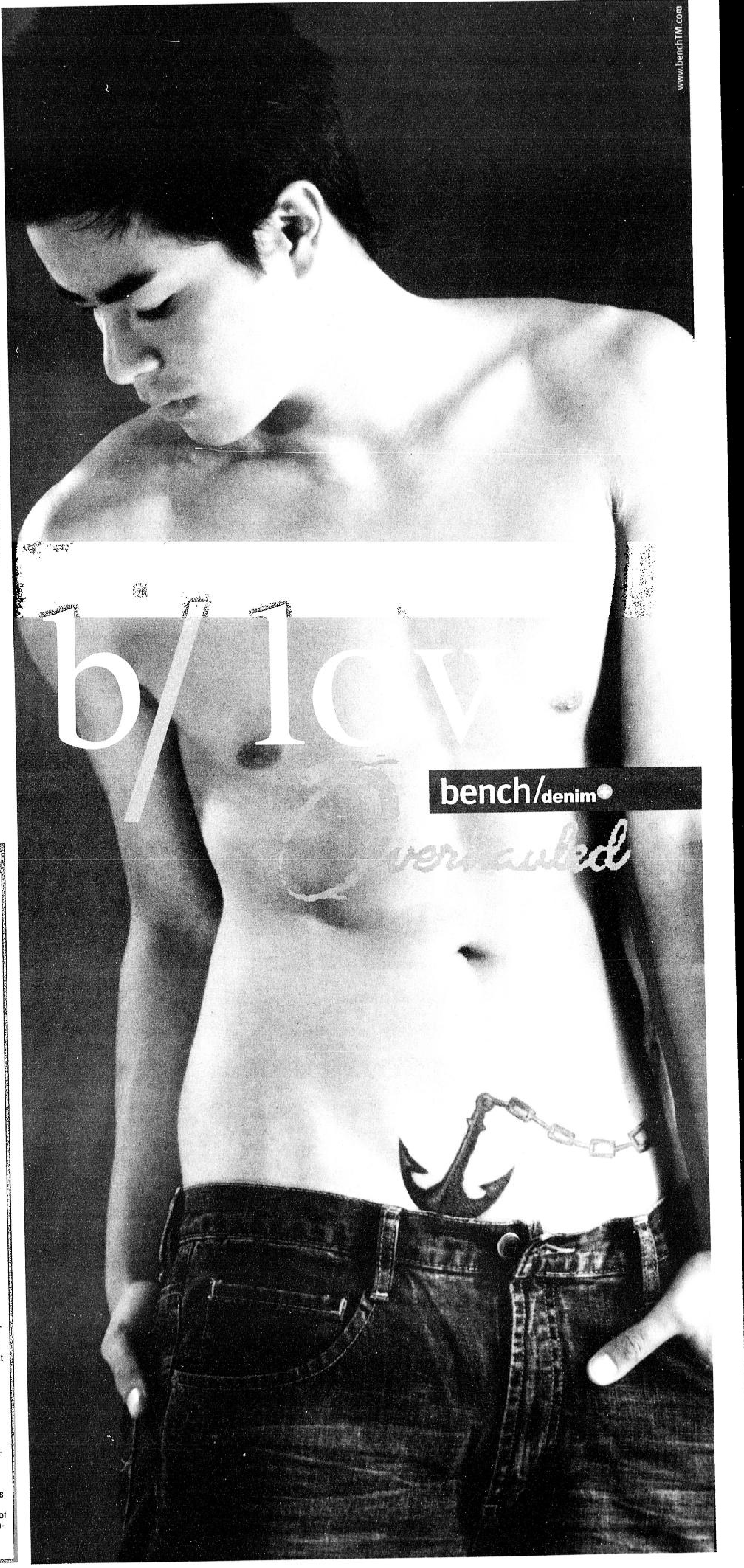
An example of how to produce a live talk show (or not), "Jojo A" is headlined by ex-teen idol Jojo Alejar and his '80s cowlick. "*Walang mapag-usapan dito*" ("There's nothing to talk about here"), he said that Wednesday night. And he wasn't lying. After opening the show with a bizarrely unfunny monologue, Jojo A admitted that his only guests were the Pining Garcia Band and a group of cheap dancing girls called Las Pilyas. It was so bad euthanasia came to mind. (Not for the host, for myself!) Oh.

Then again, the real star power lies not in the show, but in the people who admit to watching it because they find it exceptionally/euphemistically, uhm, interesting. Rico Blanco of Rivermaya has been glued for a couple months now. (He told me himself. *O ha!*) I also found out that most of the peeps at MTV Philippines watch it as well, maybe to see what a P10 budget can produce. *Hmmm.*

LINKTV and CUBE TV
(Sky Cable Ch 24 and 25, respectively)

Who cares about these random text/chat and video channels anyway? But of course, peeps named Jhake, Hellmary and Phipher!

Like Bloomberg for *jologs*, Link TV and Cube TV cater to the horny, bored and desperate segment of the youth population whose parents happened to drop one too many H's when christening their spawn. (Yup, *those* people.) These channels also appeal to texters who wish to meet potential f*ck buddies against downsized music videos by the likes of Good Charlotte, Simple Plan and, if you're truly blessed, Stella Ruiz. *Rak en roll, mga tsong!*



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24/7
TEXT
UNLIMITED
Lite
sun

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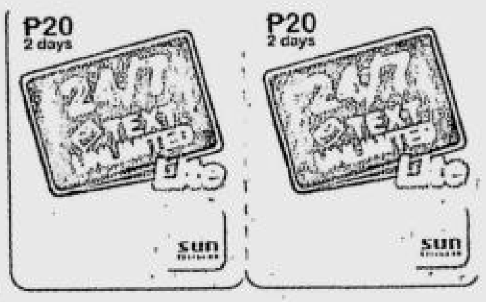
3. Purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS. Text **TU<space>2** and send to **247**. Texting to 247 is free of charge.



NOTES:

- After texting the keywords to 247 or choosing 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite in The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Just load up in two ways:

  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

  OR

  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

  For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string. You will need a minimum of P20, (exclusive of Convert-a-Load in your account) to purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS or through The Mall.

- Upon successful loading you will immediately receive a text message reflecting your updated balances and 24/7 Text Unlimited expiry. Real-time loading, no need to wait!
- Should your regular load balance reach zero after loading up 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, you can only send local Sun-to-Sun texts. To call and text subscribers on other networks, simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.
- 24/7 loads have separate and distinct validity periods from regular Sun Cellular Prepaid loads.

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	[illegible]	2 days
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WHO WILL BE THE NEXT CLOSE UP COUPLE? The finalists of the reality TV show Close-Up to Fame
CLOSER: Anne Fernandez and Franco Flores
YOGI SMILES: Dennis Hazuela, Carey Willis, Raya Manangquil and Donna Conde
CLOSE up to perfection with Noel Lorenzana, Anne Fernandez and Jeff Chang
CLOSE up and personal with Geoff Eigenmann
MEGA Pink smiles from Vicky Tanseco and ...
KICKIN' SMILE: Japoy Lizardo

Smiles per second

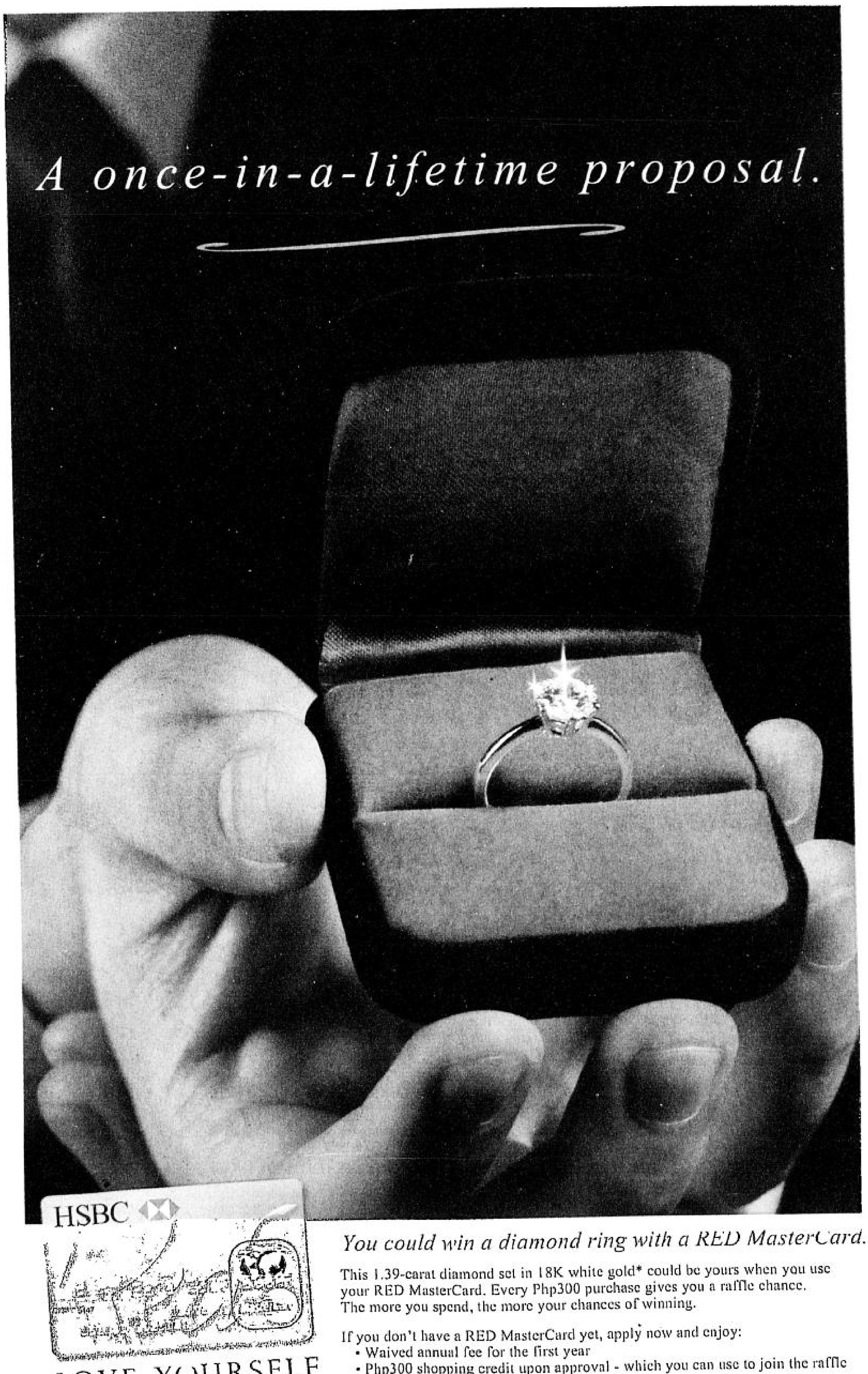
By Albert Pili

WHO WOULD'VE thought a little smile would cause so much ruckus?

Well, 24 smile high clubbers came together at CloseUp's launch party at Embassy Super Club at The Fort. These guys and girls were handpicked from a whole slew of hopefuls from all over the country, set to be tested to their teeth on who would be the newest faces on toothpaste boxes everywhere! Backing up the contestants were Rafael Rosell, TJ Trinidad, Rich Herrera and Japoy Lizardo, all of whom were past CloseUp lads. The Hairy Dawgs sank their teeth into the high energy crowd with their booty-shaking samba. Barbie Almabis capped off the night with her live performance of the search's theme song, already being played by top radio stations.

Catch the CloseUp cuties beaming their pearly whites on the latest local reality show, "CloseUp to Fame: The Search for the Next CloseUp Couple" which airs every Saturday on ABS-CBN at 4:30 p.m. Oh, but wait! This time, their gleaming dental features won't be enough to make it to the final cut. All 24 contestants will be subjected to different challenges each week, like going to a bar and acting out a scene as if they were a famous character like Marilyn Monroe or Clark Kent. In the tradition of reality TV, judges and the voting public are tasked to boot out two contestants until they're whittled down to the final two, who will be crowned as the next CloseUp poster duo.

to FAME
ROCKER SMILE: Barbie Almalbis
SMILING heartthrob TJ Trinidad
CLOSE UP COUPLE: Drew Arellano and Iya Villania
SOMETHING to smile about with ... and ... Blanco
FUNNY GRIN: ...
SEXY SMILES: ...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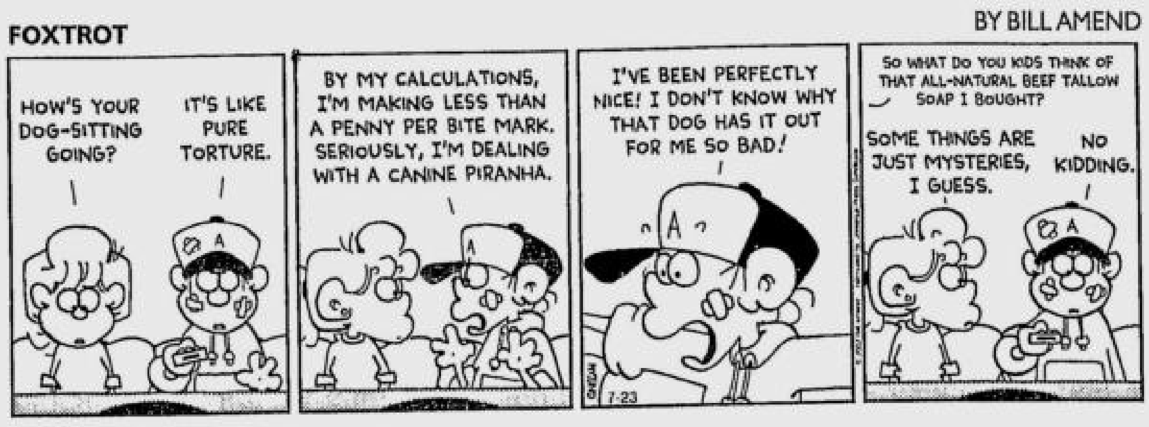
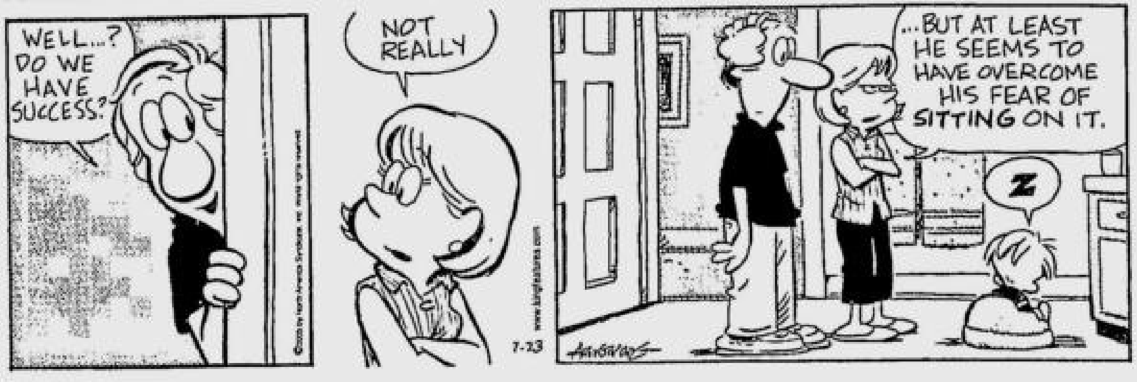
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'S YOUR DOG-SITTING GOING?
IT'S LIKE PURE TORTURE.
BY MY CALCULATIONS, I'M MAKING LESS THAN A PENNY PER BITE MARK. SERIOUSLY, I'M DEALING WITH A CANINE PIRANHA.
I'VE BEEN PERFECTLY NICE! I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT DOG HAS IT OUT FOR ME SO BAD!
7-23
SO WHAT DO YOU KIDS THINK OF THAT ALL-NATURAL BEEF TALLOW SOAP I BOUGHT?
SOME THINGS ARE JUST MYSTERIES, I GUESS.
NO KIDDING.

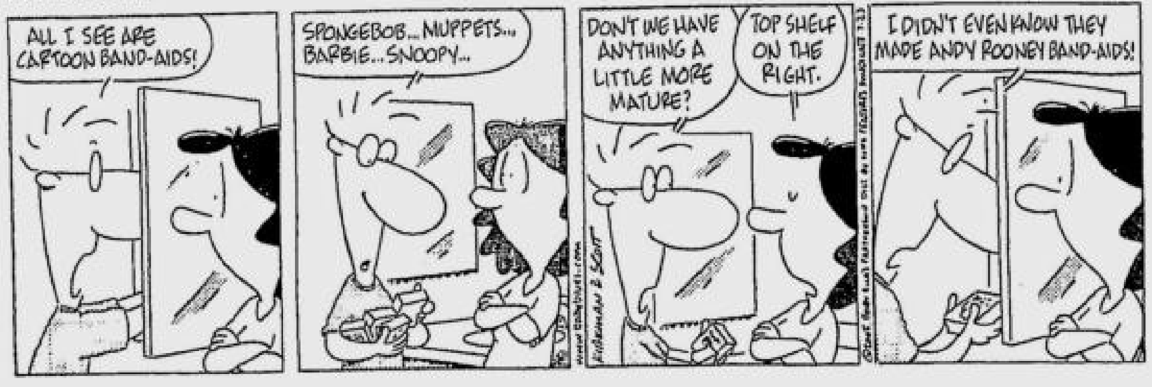
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WELL...? DO WE HAVE SUCCESS?
NOT REALLY
...BUT AT LEAST HE SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME HIS FEAR OF SITTING ON IT.
Z
7-23

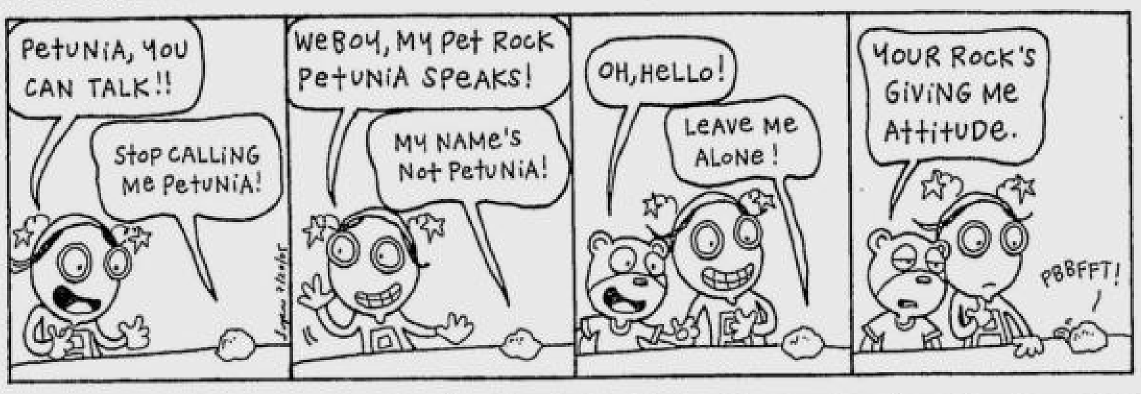
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ALL I SEE ARE CARTOON BAND-AIDS!
SPONGEBOB... MUPPETS... BARBIE... SNOOPY...
DON'T WE HAVE ANYTHING A LITTLE MORE MATURE?
TOP SHELF ON THE RIGHT.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY MADE ANDY ROONEY BAND-AIDS!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


PetuNiA, YOU CAN TALK!!
Stop CALLING Me PetuNiA!
WeBoY, MY Pet Rock PetuNiA SPeAKS!
MY NAME's Not PetuNiA!
OH, HeLLO!
Leave Me ALone!
YOUR Rock's GiViNG Me Attitude.
PBBFFT!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a very loving person. You're outgoing and yet very sensitive. You're creative and quick to see the big picture. You're very loyal to your friends, and you like to think the best of them. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings for you. Be courageous. Dream big!
Birthdate of: Marlon Wayans, actor; Daniel Radcliffe, actor; Michelle Williams, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're making long-range plans for home and family matters today. You want to secure something for yourself and others for the future. (You can do this now.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be a bit worried today. You're certainly very serious about something. This is a good time for sober discussions about practical matters with others, especially siblings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You don't want to spend money today if you can help it. You feel extremely practical, frugal and thrifty. If you do shop, it will be for something that is useful and long-lasting.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel a bit tired today. Your bones and joints might feel creaky or achy. You're not interested in trivial matters. You just want to talk about long-term, serious situations.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Whatever you have to do today, you'll probably do it best working alone. That way, you can call the shots. (And no one will be looking over your shoulder all the time.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with an older person or friend (possibly somebody more experienced or established than you) could yield good advice for you. Either way, you'll get a better idea of what's happening. (This is good.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People respect you for your integrity and your honesty today. You have the courage to stand up for what you believe in. Others see that you're a straight shooter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent day to make long-range plans connected with publishing or furthering your education in some way. Travel plans might also be considered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be afraid to dig deep into matters connected with inheritances, insurance matters, estates, debt and taxes. You can accomplish a lot here. Just do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with partners are serious. You feel a sense of obligation to someone. Nothing is trivial or flighty. You want to get down to brass tacks.

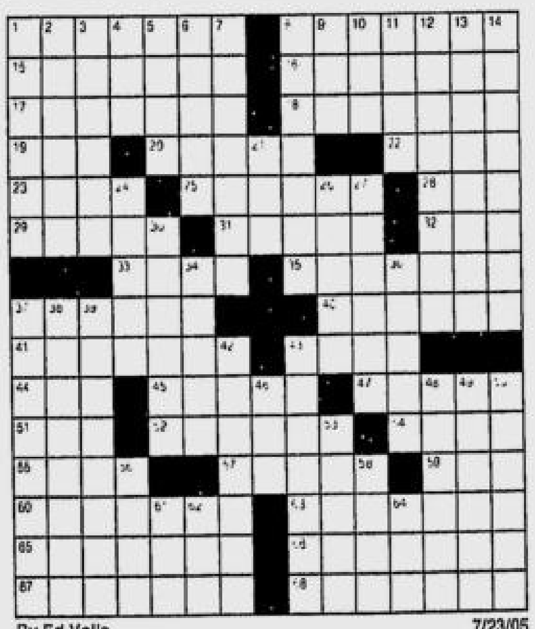
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're willing to work very hard today to achieve what you want. You find it easy to concentrate. In fact, routine work flows easily now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to discuss the obligations of children, and what is best for their long-term welfare. You might also want to make plans about the creative arts and vacations.

DAILY CROSSWORD

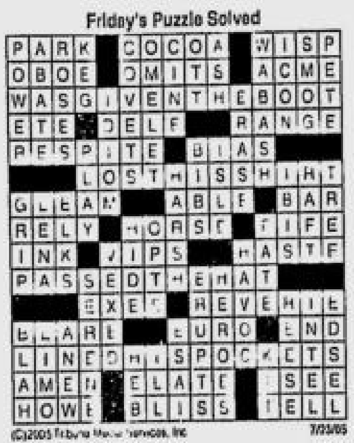
ACROSS
1 Shoulder bone
8 Cuts in half
15 Side-to-side
16 Plains tribe
17 Stating positively
18 One who makes a point?
19 __ compos mentis
20 Brushes the surface
22 Alleviate
23 Forest unit
25 __ of the guard
28 No __ intended
29 Purse attachment
31 Ranch name in "Giant"
32 Bonzo or Clyde, e.g.
33 Mardi __
35 Observes
37 Obeys the photographer
40 Cruise ships
41 Goddess of vengeance
43 Position to be filled
44 Lofty peak
45 Contaminate
47 Sheree or Oliver
51 Harper Valley grp. of song
52 Walking
54 Existed
55 Minus money
57 Move as a throng
59 Modicum
60 "Tobacco Road" writer Caldwell
63 Talking idly
65 Vilifier
66 Pith
67 Stanzas of sonnets
68 Took turns

DOWN
1 Biases
2 Prance about
3 One who makes amends
4 Church seat
5 "Mila 18" author
6 Long and lean
7 Classic Boyer film
8 Guy at the plate
9 Nest-egg letters
10 Gullible individual
11 Rapier's cousin
12 Chitinous body
13 1991 Joe Pesci movie
14 Painful feeling
21 Cohort of Curly
24 Two below par
26 Coral isle
27 Country
30 Magic word
34 Man from Manchuria
36 Being dragged
37 Without a catch?
38 The Velvet Fog
39 Stalemates
42 Flour processors
43 One who bends low
46 Scandinavian nat.
48 Intensify color
49 Dazed condition
50 Avoided a straight answer
53 Body bulk
56 Card game for three
58 Time gone by
61 Anger
62 Bottom-line figure
64 Assam or darjeeling



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
7/23/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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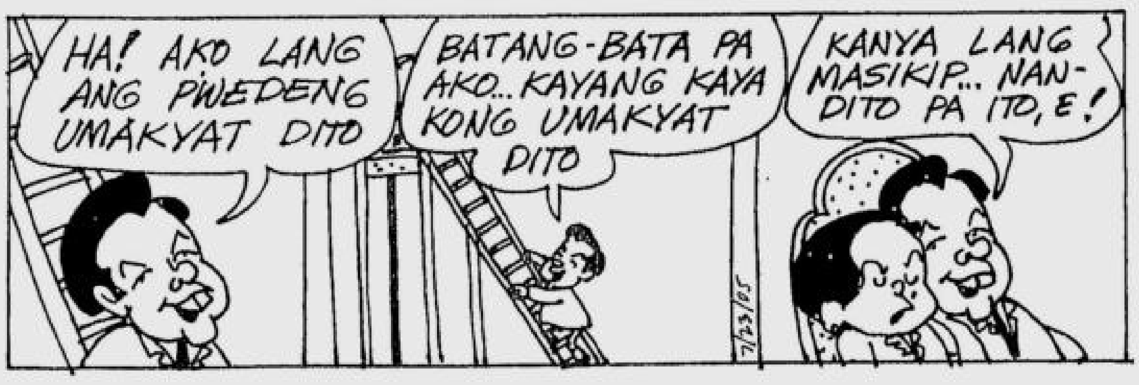
7/22/05

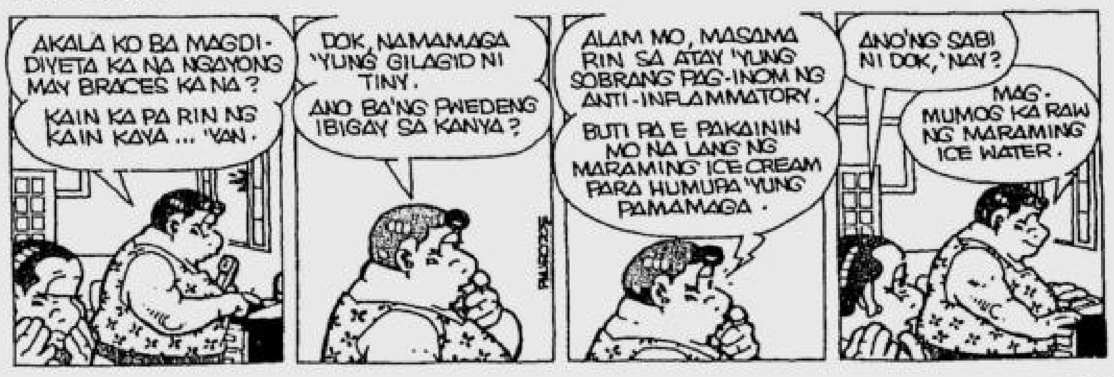
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HA! AKO LANG ANG PWEDENG UMAKYAT DITO
BATANG-BATA PA AKO... KAYANG KAYA KONG UMAKYAT DITO
KANYA LANG MASIKIP... NANDITO PA ITO, E!
7/23/05

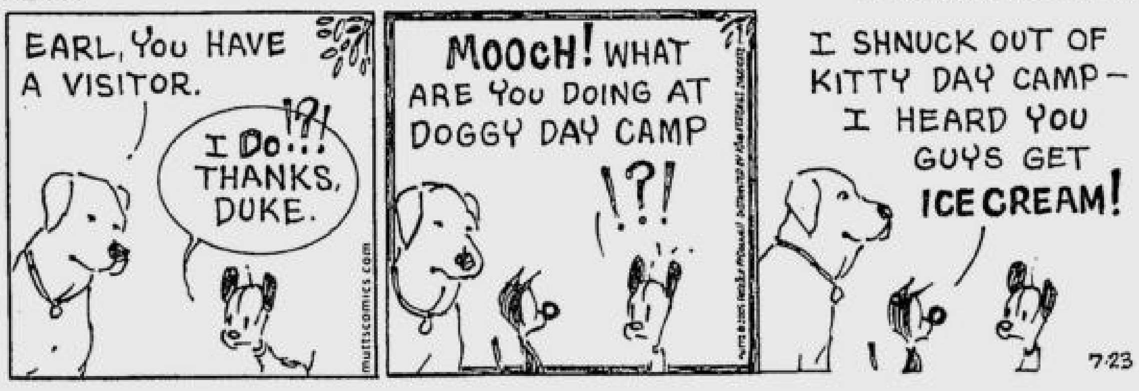
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKALA KO BA MAGDI-DIYETA KA NA NGAYONG MAY BRACES KA NA?
KAIN KA PA RIN NG KAIN KAYA ... 'YAN.
DOK, NAMAMAGA 'YUNG GILAGID NI TINY.
ANO BA'NG PWEDENG IBIGAY SA KANYA?
ALAM MO, MASAMA RIN SA ATAY 'YUNG SOBRANG PAG-INOM NG ANTI-INFLAMMATORY.
BUTI PA E PAKAININ MO NA LANG NG MARAMING ICE CREAM PARA HUMUPA 'YUNG PAMAMAGA.
ANO'NG SABI NI DOK, 'NAY?
MAG-MUMOG KA RAW NG MARAMING ICE WATER.

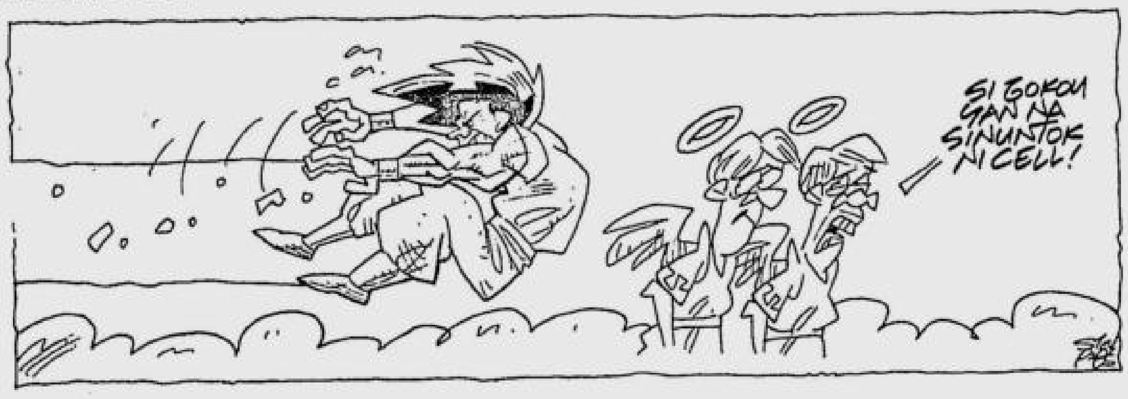
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
I DO!?! THANKS, DUKE.
MOOCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT DOGGY DAY CAMP
!?!
I SHNUCK OUT OF KITTY DAY CAMP— I HEARD YOU GUYS GET ICE CREAM!
muttscomics.com
7-23

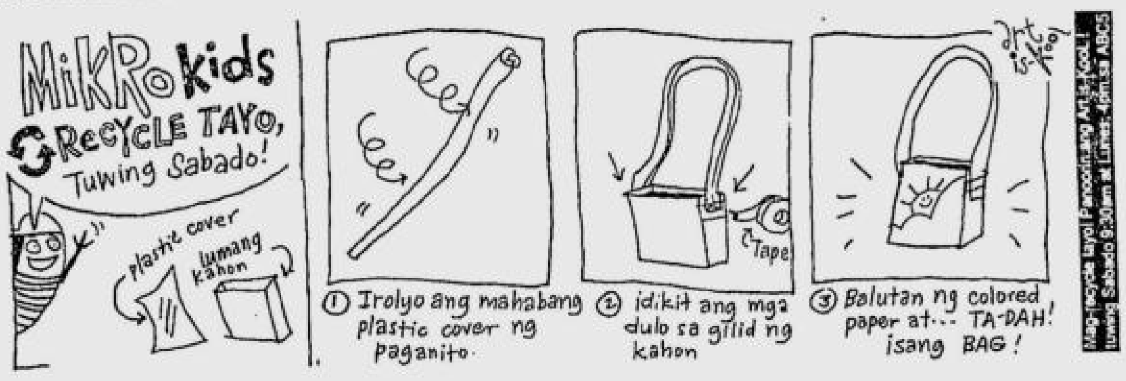
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SI GOKOU 'YAN NA SINUNTOK NI CELL!

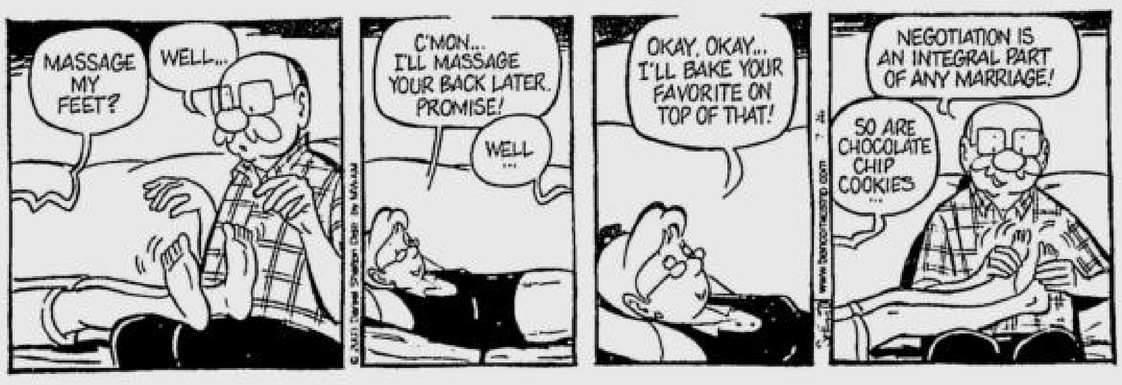
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
plastic cover
lumang kahon
Tape
① Irolyo ang mahabang plastic cover ng paganito.
② idikit ang mga dulo sa gilid ng kahon
③ Balutan ng colored paper at... TA-DAH! isang BAG!
Art is Kool

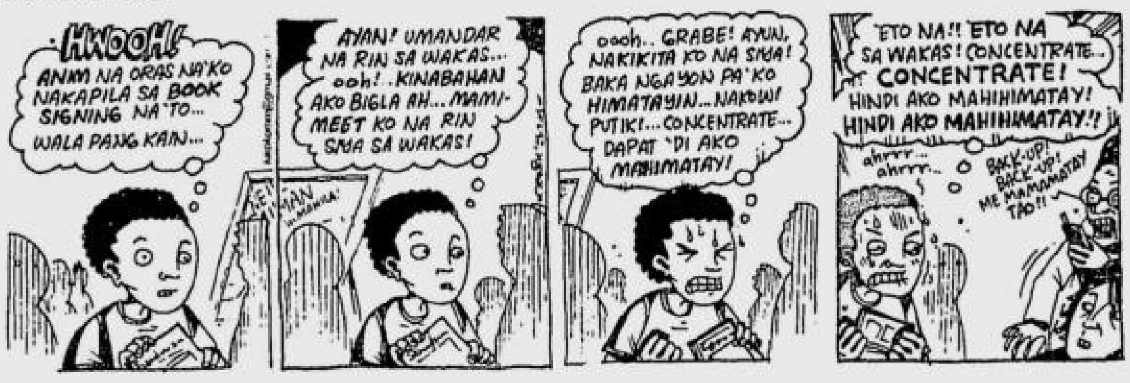
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MASSAGE MY FEET?
WELL...
C'MON... I'LL MASSAGE YOUR BACK LATER. PROMISE!
WELL ...
OKAY, OKAY... I'LL BAKE YOUR FAVORITE ON TOP OF THAT!
NEGOTIATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY MARRIAGE!
SO ARE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES ...

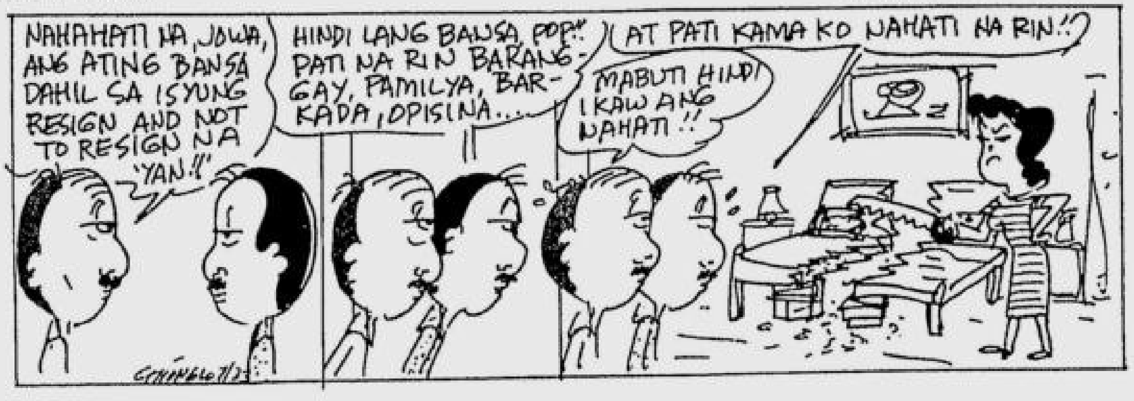
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH!
ANIM NA ORAS NA'KO NAKAPILA SA BOOK SIGNING NA'TO... WALA PANG KAIN...
AYAN! UMANDAR NA RIN SA WAKAS... ooh!.. KINABAHAN AKO BIGLA AH... MAMI-MEET KO NA RIN SIYA SA WAKAS!
oooh.. GRABE! AYUN, NAKIKITA KO NA SIYA! BAKA NGAYON PA'KO HIMATAYIN... NAKOW! PUTIK!... CONCENTRATE... DAPAT 'DI AKO MAHIMATAY!
'ETO NA!! 'ETO NA SA WAKAS! CONCENTRATE... CONCENTRATE! HINDI AKO MAHIHIMATAY! HINDI AKO MAHIHIMATAY!!
ahrrr... ahrrr...
BACK-UP! BACK-UP! ME MAMAMATAY TAO!!

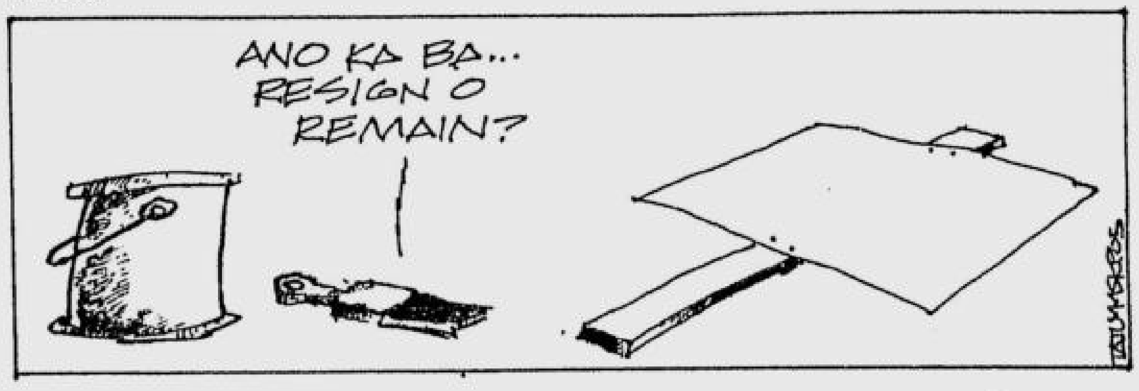
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAHAHATI NA, JOWA, ANG ATING BANSA DAHIL SA ISYUNG RESIGN AND NOT TO RESIGN NA 'YAN!!
HINDI LANG BANSA, POP!! PATI NA RIN BARANGGAY, PAMILYA, BARKADA, OPISINA...
AT PATI KAMA KO NAHATI NA RIN!!
MABUTI HINDI IKAW ANG NAHATI!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANO KA BA... RESIGN O REMAIN?

THE FINAL WORD FROM 'THE MAN'

Neil Gaiman is addicted to calamansi

EVERY once in a while, a rift in the natural order of things occurs and we walk through the looking glass, and thereafter attempt to make sense of the strange new landscape. That's what it felt like two weekends ago, as if I had crawled through a crack hidden somewhere between the fantasy and children's story sections of Fully Booked in Rockwell, and into a bizarre universe where there were more characters dressed in black than in an Ozzy Osbourne concert.

It was a peculiar gathering indeed, where goths, who looked like they hadn't seen the sunlight in years, peaceably mixed with self-confessed geeks, who looked like they hadn't seen... um, other people in years (not that there's anything wrong with that). Add to the three thousand-strong rabble were the creative juice drinkers of local ad agencies, indie musicians, left-of-center artists, aspiring writers and anyone who's ever felt "tortured" in their life. (Visibly absent, I must note, were the fashionable people who hold series A stock in the society pages, in what I'd boldly dub as the biggest Anti-It event of the year.)

Like an infinite echo of sound were the voices retelling fragments of stories you only encountered in dreams, or nightmares. Of talking pumpkinheads, beached devils, retired angels, people with buttons for eyes, Norse gods, androgynous temptresses, Buddhist monks, a happy-go-lucky female version of the Grim Reaper and most of all, a morose, paste-faced lord of the Dream World.

At the center of it all was no rock star, no Hollywood celeb, no religious cult leader, no Stephen Hawking-type prodigy of the quantum physics community, not even a militia man mobilizing the crowd for a revolution. He's more than that, nothing short of a legend, or even a god to many people—like the ones who camped outside Rockwell as early as 3 a.m. He's Neil Gaiman. World-renowned author, author of renowned worlds.

Imagine that, Gaiman commanded a bigger crowd in a tent that day than the anti-GMA forces at Ayala Avenue. (I guess it's because he's just so much better at creating fiction.) The multi-awarded, best-selling author known most for his seminal, nine-year long labor of love, "The Sandman," as well as his novels and children's books of pure pleasure, such as "Neverwhere," "American Gods," "Stardust," "Coraline," and "Wolves in the Walls," came to Manila as part of a signing tour to promote his upcoming film, "Mirrormask."

'Wall of sound'

When Neil finally showed up at the tent, dressed in signature black, he was instantly greeted—no, I think the right word is "assailed"—by what Neil himself later described as a "wall of sound." Tumultuous shouts, banshee-like screams, yells of "I love you Neil!," or "I *labyu* Neil!" and "Neil, you rock!!!" constructed that staggering audio wall. Already adopting traditional Filipino time, Neil apologized, "I'm really sorry I'm late. There's a particularly evil thing that only computers do when thousands of people are waiting..." Again, the wall of sound. "You people make even more noise than the Brazilians!" he said. (Later that day, Neil was to write in his blog, *"In the Philippines, the people are enthusiastic on a level that makes the Brazilians look reserved and polite."*)

Neil commented that the reception was a "wonderfully surreal and strange contrast to Singapore... if you were there, you'd all be in lines and be very, very quiet." Once again, the wall of sound. With not a trace of false modesty, he confessed that he thought it was all a big set-up. "This mad enthusiasm... I get a weird, vague feeling that this is all a big mistake." What, that we lined up for hours upon hours in the blistering heat expecting like, a famous rock star by mistake? For once, Neil Gaiman, I can honestly say that you're *wrong*! He he, I love you...

Endless lines

The manic reaction was manifest throughout the weekend of Neil's visit (notice, by the way, how I refer to him by first name, like we're tight). The fans—no, the right word is "fanatics"—were shaking, sweating, gifting the DreamMaker with everything from Haw Flakes to bottled bubble solutions, original paintings to San Mig Light. A filmmaker friend of mine kept squeaking, "I can't believe I'm breathing the same air as Gaiman!" Another friend actually *cried* when she finally got his autograph after lining up under the torturous sun for two days. Girls asked for hugs and kisses. Hell, even guys asked for hugs and kisses. Oh, and I heard that the girl who offered him a bottle of bubbles and was instructed by Neil to "go out to the world and blow bubbles for the greater good" was last seen blowing 'em soap suds to save the planet. Classic case of Delight turning into Delirium.

Like many people, I had all these cool things to ask him as I waited patiently in line, like "do you have any unfinished stories in the Library of Dreams that we don't know about?" or "what did you play when you were with the punk band Chaos?" or even "love the way you weave Milton in your work!" Rrright. From alluding to John Milton, I ended up instead channeling Paris Hilton, blubbering like a retarded primate when I finally met him. I handed him my ancient copy of "Season of Mists," "Endless Nights" and "Coraline." He was pleasantly surprised to see that the first page of "Coraline" already had an old autograph of his, plus his sketch of a rat. It was an old birthday gift from a friend who acquired it for me in a past signing tour in New York City. So Neil added another sketch, to which I brilliantly reacted with, "That's... awesome. You rock!"

Stay where you are, you'll be sent your orders. I really should mobilize you fans... if I realize it's time to move on to the post-human condition, I will announce it in my blog.

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

'There's nothing futile about creativity. Ever.'
–Neil Gaiman, at the Writers Forum

Man in the Mirrormask

The rabid crowd was treated to the trailer and selected clips from the awaited film, "Mirrormask," which Neil worked in collaboration with longtime confrere and award-winning mixed media artist Dave McKean, produced by the Jim Henson Company. Balancing his silver laptop, Neil finally did the impossible feat of silencing the crowd as he read aloud part of his latest novel in the works, "Anansi Boys." At the brief question and answer portion, Neil proved to be a really nice, down-to-earth guy with this wonderfully caustic sense of humor, so far removed from the broody, angst-ridden writer archetype, thank God!

When asked by a fan (who was shaking like a leaf in the middle of a thunderstorm), about what sacrifices he had to make to become a writer, Neil responded, "You never get to view the big sacrifice. It wasn't like J.R.R. Tolkien, Terry Pratchett and J.K. Rowling came knocking on my door and said, 'we've come to indoctrinate you into the club.'" He first thought about becoming a writer when he was around 19 or 20 years old. "I couldn't sleep, I was having a bad nightmare at 5 in the morning. I thought, I want to be a writer, and if I don't do anything, I'll be on my death bed saying to myself 'I could've been a writer.'" He describes his fantasy-filled career path: "It's pretty glorious. I make things up. People like it."

Writers Forum

The "mad enthusiasm" spilled well over the weekend, until the Monday of the invitational Writers Forum at the Music Museum. A show of hands revealed that students, employees and bosses chucked school and work that day, inciting Neil to comment, "the whole Philippine economy is at stake because you're here!"

In the more intimate setting, Neil shared that he knew he had to make a trip one day to the Philippines. Since he's allowed to go behind the scenes of his website, www.neilgaiman.com, he noticed that the Philippines was among the top tier of countries constantly visiting his little address in cyberspace. "I thought, there must be some very computer-savvy people who are either very bored, or really like reading. So I thought I should go there one day and find out who they are." He went on to say that though he didn't know what to expect in Manila, he did think while growing up that the Philippines was a place where "all the really cool artists came from, artists who had really elegant lines and a sense of beauty." He even acknowledged that some of the best DC Comics artists were Filipinos, naming the likes of Nestor Redondo, Alex Nino and Alfredo Alcala as examples of "the giants, the greats."

Mentor, sage, leader of a future revolt?

In only an hour or so of just listening to Neil, I had picked up more cool tenets to live by than in a whole semester of Creative Writing classes in grad school. A few footnotes on success: "I discovered that the ones on top of their professions are the really nice ones. It's the second raters who are the pains in the arse and want Perrier poured in their toilet. I decided I was going to be one of the first raters; one of the nice ones, it's so much easier."

His advice to aspiring writers: "Read everything you can, read even the stuff that has nothing to do with what you are interested in. You'll find some of the more peculiar anecdotes in nonfiction. Watch everything. Steal from everywhere."

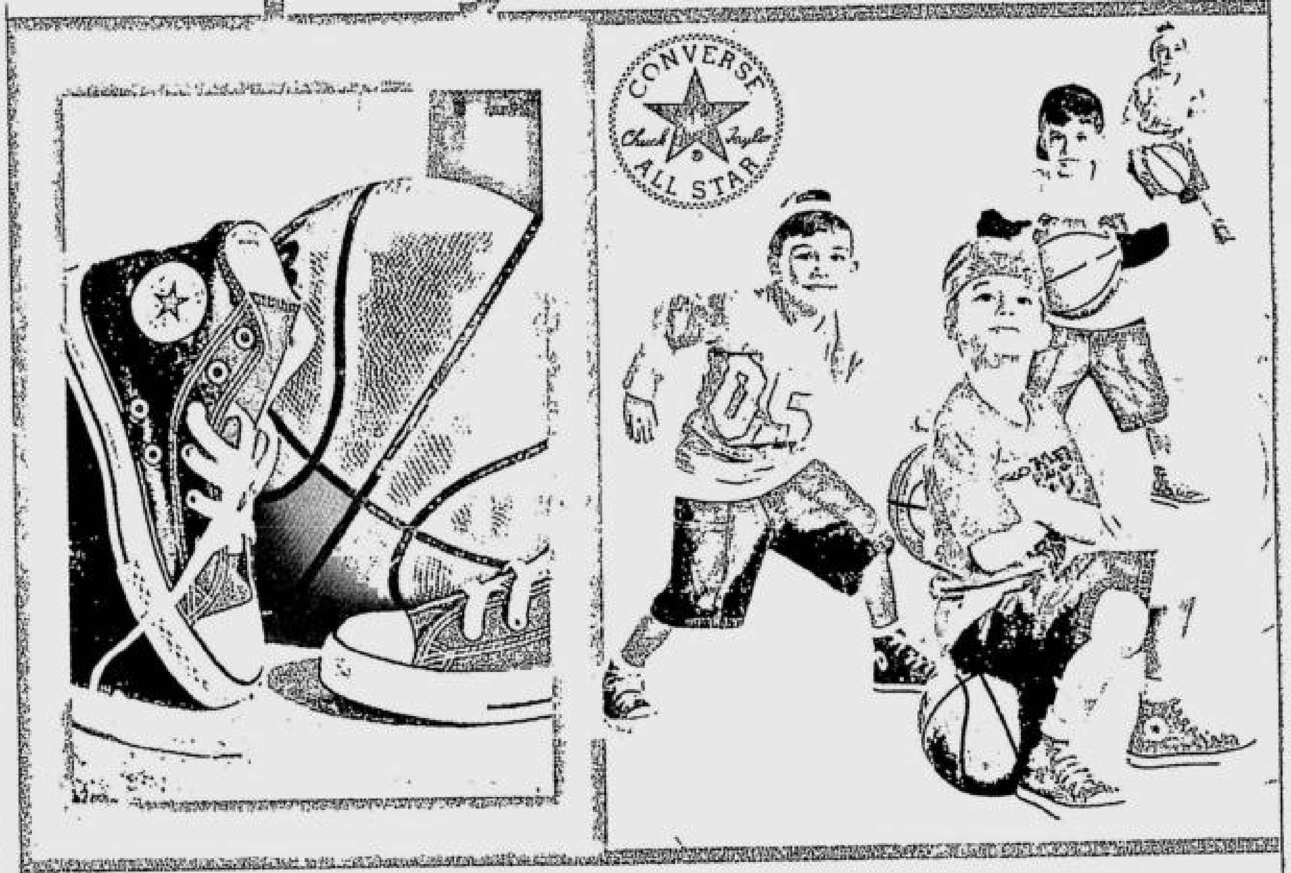
A funny question was then posed by a girl who asked how he could use his loyal, multitudinous fan base "for the greater good." (SFX: collective chortle from the audience.) Neil replied wryly, "Stay where you are, you'll be sent your orders. I really should mobilize you fans. I try to use my blog for good and not for evil. As time goes on, if I realize it's time to move on to the post-human condition, I will announce it in my blog."

From Anansi to calamansi

Ah yes, Neil's blog. Moments before his departure to Australia, he bid farewell to the Philippines in his online journal. I'll go on a limb and say that I even perceived a sentimental tone there. (A bit odd coming from Gaiman, or any British guy for that matter.) Apart from confessing that he thinks he's now addicted to calamansi juice, he wrote lines that, well, would make even non-Gaimanites go "awww." Check it out yourself, he wrote, "I don't remember ever having felt so loved by so many people."

He did mention on Day One that having now been to Manila, he'd love to set a story here. Who knows? Maybe one day I'll be devouring a future novel called "Calamansi Boys" and happen upon a character toasting to absent friends, lost loves and old gods, not with a bottle of Chateau Lafitte 1828, but with San Mig Light. One can only dream.

Neil Gaiman's books are available at Fully Booked Rockwell, Greenhills and Cubao branches.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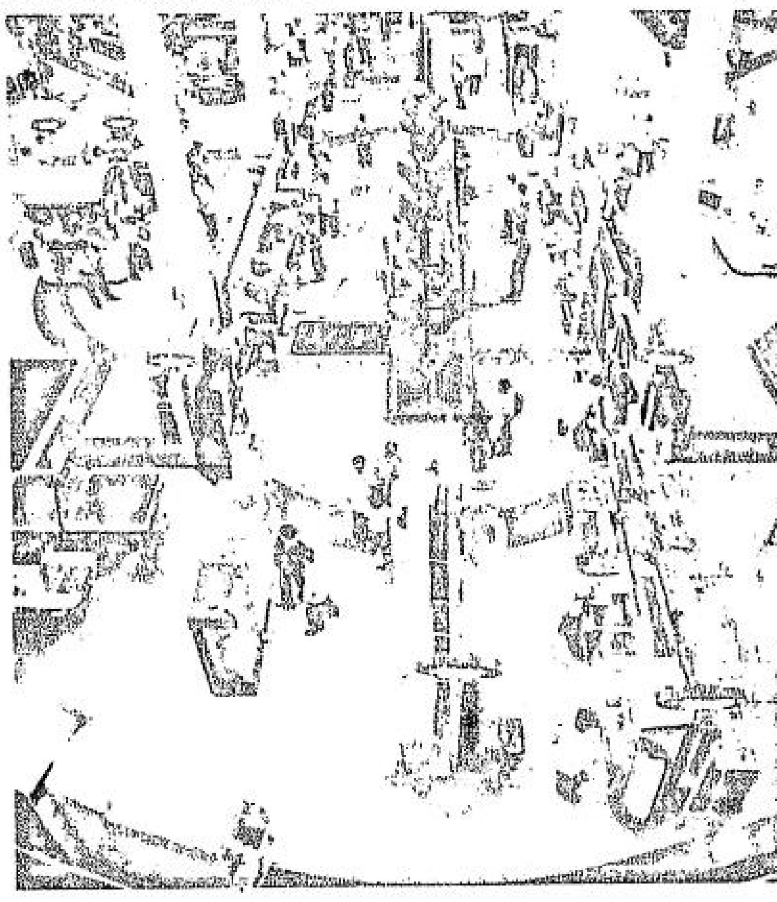

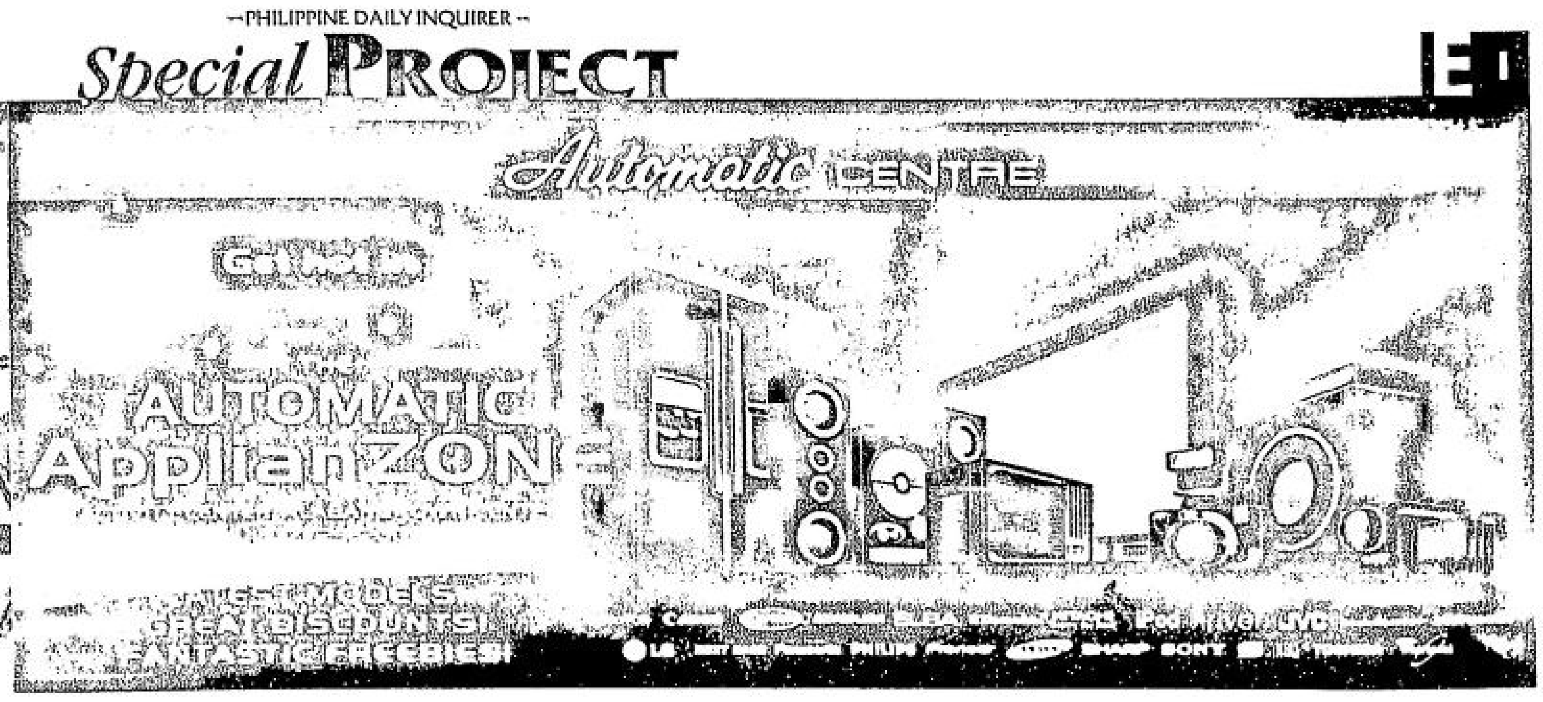

Making shopper's life easy

PEOPLE just love to get the latest of the best appliances that come to town. No matter how humble the dwelling is, there will always be a television set and a DVD inside. The affluent on the other hand, like to try the latest technology in the market no matter how much they practice austerity in these times.

MAKING SHOPPER'S/ F7

Everything is better with Sharp technology

Sharp has owned many "firsts" in technological history. It spends a lot of time and resources on research and development, as well as on cutting-edge manufacturing facilities. It has opened a $1.5 billion plant in Kameyama in central Japan, and plans to operate more in the future. The bottom-line, however, is not whether the company gets farther ahead of competition. More importantly. Sharp intends to make life better for people all over the world by making high quality products and excellent service in markets where it is present. And what better way to improve the quality of life than by focusing on the home and the environment.

The TV viewing world is focused on Sharp

While TV viewers around the world begin to appreciate the advantages of watching from flat panels, broadcast companies are gradually shifting from analog to higher quality digital broadcasting. Markets around the world like Japan, Germany, and the US are beginning to adapt to digital broadcasting. Here in the Philippines, high-definition technology is slowly finding its audience in film and broadcast production houses. Thanks to Sharp technology, the Filipino viewer gets closer to the experience of high definition TV viewing on large screen sets.

Foremost in flat-panel TV technology is the liquid crystal display (LCD). It has proven to meet the demands of projecting high quality images for home entertainment. It is in this area of developing LCDs where Sharp has long established its excellence. Its first mass-market LCD calculator was released in 1973, followed by its first flat-panel LCD TV in 1987. Today, Sharp is the world's biggest seller of LCD TVs, accounting for one fourth of all the LCD sets sold globally each year. The company has also won the Development of Direct View Liquid Crystal Display Screens Award during the 2004 Technology and Engineering Emmy®.

Sharp concentrates almost exclusively on larger TVs. It is the first company to bring extra-large LCD TVs to market, beginning with a 45-inch set in 2004. Sharp's flagship, top-of-the-line, flat-panel LCD HDTV monitor is AQUOS - recognized in the industry for its performance, flexibility, value, and style. Its outstanding features include an exclusive screen technology called the Advanced Super View LCD Panel with Black TFT low-reflection coating that reduce glare and produces richer, more life-like images even in harsh lighting conditions. Its wide viewing angle allows clear image viewing from any part of the room. It has excellent resolution, spectacular color purity, multi-media digital interface, fast response time video circuit for viewing high-speed images, and 1-bit amplifiers that allow amplification without exposure to external noise.

Not to be outdone is Sharp's pure flat TVs, which include progressive scanning, interlaced scan, noise reduction, game function (for 29-inch flat models), graphic equalizer, and child lock. It has intelligent features that a Sharp flat TV user will truly enjoy. Its view timer is excellent for energy-saving because of its ability to shut down when there is no signal or the TV has been left inactive for a maximum of 10 hours of continuous operation. Contrast will automatically adjust according to the room lighting environment to make viewing more comfortable to the eyes.

Another innovative product is Sharp's High Definition DLP™ (Digital Light Processing) Rear Projection TV. This revolutionary front projector includes the award-winning Texas Instruments DLP™ micro-display technology combined with Sharp's DLP™ engineering expertise, offering high brightness, brilliant colors, and crystal clear images in a versatile thin, lightweight design. Its Picture-in-Picture Modes allows the viewer to watch multiple programs or video sources simultaneously.

Sharp's TV sets are energy-efficient and adheres to environmental standards. Its design is both ergonomic and elegant. Truly, a Sharp TV at home gives you all the advantages you need and want for a complete viewing experience.

ADVT

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Treat for the ears.
Sharp's exclusive 1-bit digital audio technology and virtual Dolby surround let you enjoy powerful 3D sound for movie-quality audio.

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20 YEARS
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The AQUOS can last up to 20 years (on 8 viewing hours a day). Its long life 60,000 - hour backlight outlasts a plasma TV's 20,000 - hour durability.*

Play it from memory!
The AQUOS features a PC slot with a universal memory card adapter. This allows you to display still pictures from digital cameras, and play MPEG movies.

Energy-saving and environment-friendly.
AQUOS' "Optical Picture Control" feature saves electricity by automatically adjusting brightness to match room lighting. An AQUOS LCD uses 82% less energy than a plasma TV, and 40% less energy than a conventional TV.*

Feast for the eyes.
The AQUOS reduces eyestrain during extended viewing periods with its Quick Shoot technology which reproduces clean and clear pictures. And unlike a plasma TV, an AQUOS LCD has no burned-in after images or mirror effects.

Highest resolution, longer life, bigger energy savings!

6.22 MILLION DOT RESOLUTION

40% POWER SAVINGS

The Sharp AQUOS LCD TV uses the latest technology to make the clearest picture quality in the world. Marvel at the AQUOS' 6.22 million dot resolution on a 45" screen (compared to a 50" plasma TV's 3.15 million dots*). The AQUOS lets you enjoy superior viewing for more hours with its long life backlight, and 40% savings on electricity!

AQUOS
45" AQUOS LCD TV
LC-45GX6U

SHARP
······· be sharp

The AQUOS' slim, space-saving structure is almost 12 kg lighter than models from other industry leaders. An AQUOS LCD weighs just 14 kg, compared to a plasma TV's 27 kg weight.* With its eye-friendly viewing and mind-blowing sounds, the AQUOS converts any home into a theatre, while its durability and energy-saving features make it ideal for every home.

Everything's better if it's Sharp.

* Based on comparison with Sharp's previous PDP models.

www.sharp.ph

Making shopper's life easy

From page E1

These are just few of the reasons Automatic Centre holds appliance exhibits; to reach out to the people and give them the best deals to have the TV or digital camera of their dream.

The latest appliance exhibit Automatic Centre's ApplianZone at the Alabang Town Centre runs until July 29.

The exhibit once again features the zoning concept where products or categories are grouped together instead of the usual exhibit of by brands. "This to help the customers make easier choices," said Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre.

The zoning concept is matched with the idea of color-coding. By focusing on a specific product in a zone, potential buyers are given the opportunity to compare the specifications of each product from different brands. Each brand has something special to offer and customers can decide which of them most suit their preference. Zoning also helps consumers save time because they would only go to the zone where the appliance they want to check out or intend to buy is located.

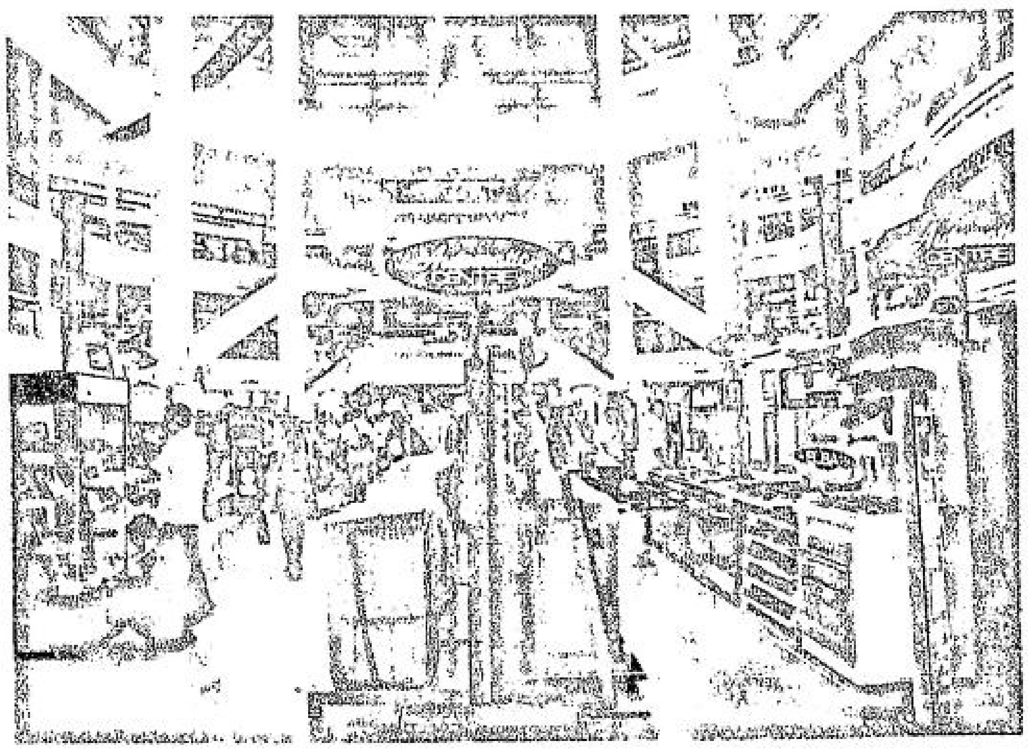
Shoppers may not have the convenience of going from store to store to look for the items they want. Appliance exhibits not only allow potential customers to have wider choices; it also gives them good deals.

"Customers and shoppers appreciate the fact they are able to find products easily," Lim said.

The first few days of the exhibit let the mall-goers and window-shoppers become familiar with the ongoing exhibit and find out the new technology in appliances. This, in turn, gives them the idea of what they need at home or in their offices.

Alabang Town Center has been a venue of many Automatic Centre exhibits in the past. It proved to be a mature responding market. This is not to say that only the affluent contribute to the good reception of the exhibits.

Lim said, the broad base of customers, which include the working class, has been one of its strongest clients.



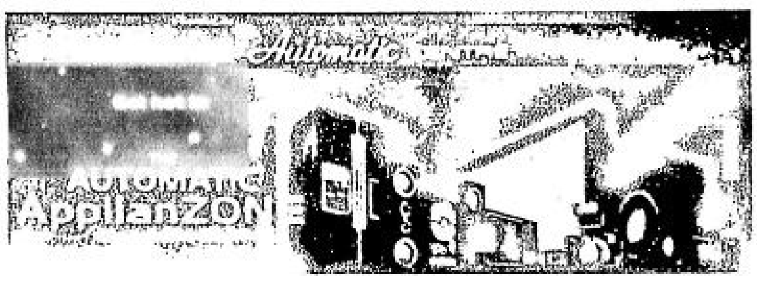
ApplianZone's participating brands include Sharp, Hitachi, Philips, Pioneer, Canon, Toshiba, Panasonic, JVC, LG, Kolin, Sony, Elba, La Germania, Carrier, Electrolux, Kelvinator, iPod, and Whirlpool. The Automatic Centre ApplianZone also offers 0-percent interest on selected brands and credit card companies.

At the same time, Bankard is in tie-up with Automatic Centre in giving shoppers a limited appliance promo, which runs until Aug. 31. The "Wash, Buy, and Charge" promo offers Bankard holders a chance to win cash prizes or a BF-800 Canon camera. This is also available in Sogo Home and Office Center and other Automatic Centre branches.

The promo is not limited to washing machines or dryers only. All purchases of any appliance using a Bankard credit card qualify the customers to join the promo.

Automatic Centre also offers the money-back guarantee and extended warranty of up to five years.

ApplianZone's participating brands include Sharp, Hitachi, Philips, Pioneer, Canon, Toshiba, Panasonic, JVC, LG, Kolin, Sony, Elba, La Germania, Carrier, Electrolux, Kelvinator, iPod, and Whirlpool. The Automatic Centre ApplianZone also offers 0% interest in selected brands and credit card companies.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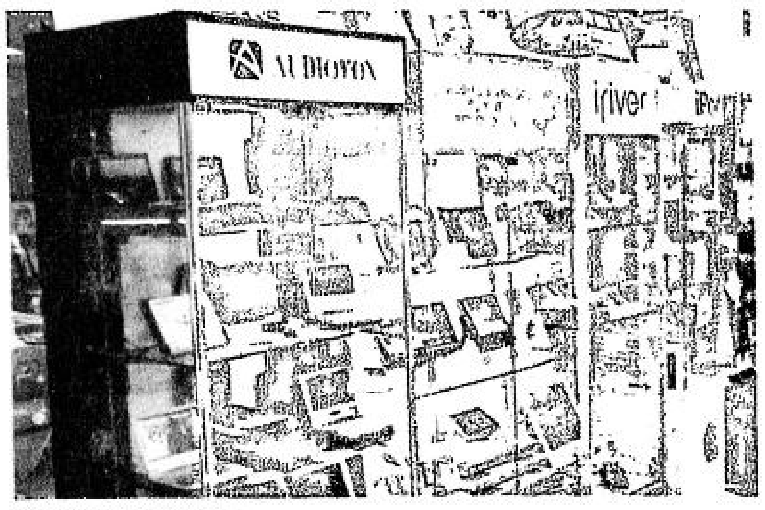
Automatic ApplianZONE


AUDIOVOX
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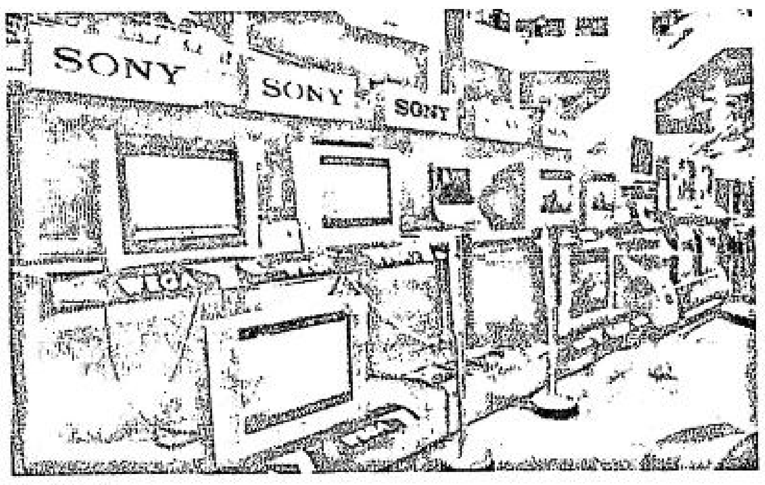
DIGITAL Music Zone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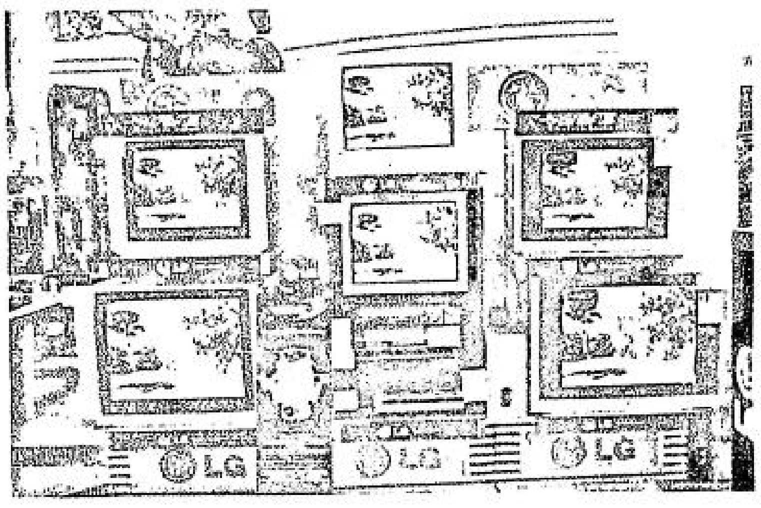
VIDEO Zone



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Multi channel (2ch) Dolby Pro Logic II • Karaoke scoring function
Dragonpick • Rocket start • RHYTHMAX • MP3 playback
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3,500 W PMPO • Matrix surround speakers • Dolby Digital / DTS Decoders (2ch) Built-in • Karaoke scoring function
Dragonpick • Rocket start • RHYTHMAX • MP3 playback
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7,000 W PMPO • Dolby Digital (5.1 ch.) / DTS (5.1ch) / MPEG
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Hitachi goes Automatic

Automatic CENTRE
Get hot in
THE AUTOMATIC
ApplianZONE

SINCE the return of the Hitachi brand three years ago, and since it decided to tap the mainstream market, it has chosen to deal with one of the leading appliance stores in the country. Automatic Centre has constantly partnered with Hitachi in giving customers a wide variety of appliance choices, especially television sets.

Automatic Centre is the first appliance retailer to carry Hitachi because of its belief in the quality of the products, according to Geoffrey Lim of Automatic. It considers Hitachi as one of the leaders in developing the TV of the future because of its advance technology and features.

Initially, Hitachi products were available only in audio-visual specialist stores, which have a limited but sure-buying market.

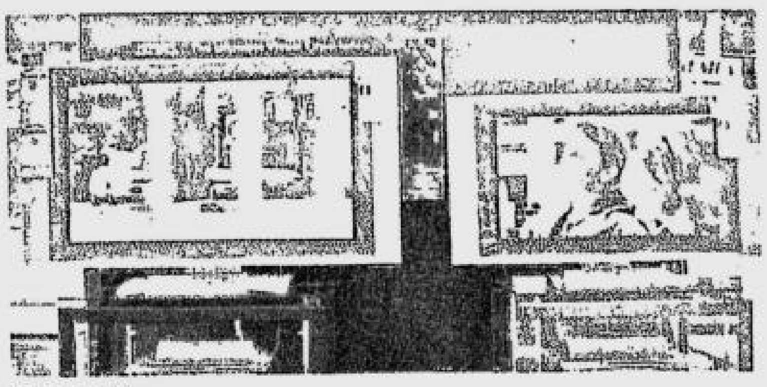
Marvin T. Balistoy, assistant sales marketing manger of Hitachi Asia Ltd in the Philippines, said exhibits allow the working class to avail itself of high-quality products and brands because of the special deals it offers.

Hitachi is particularly pushing its Plasma, LCD, and projection TVs because of its advance features called Alis or the alternating lighting of surfaces. This gives the plasma a 60,000-hour life span in an average of eight hours a day or a good life of 20 years. Alis also allows the TV panel to reproduce high-resolution images resulting in vivid colors and real-life viewing experience.

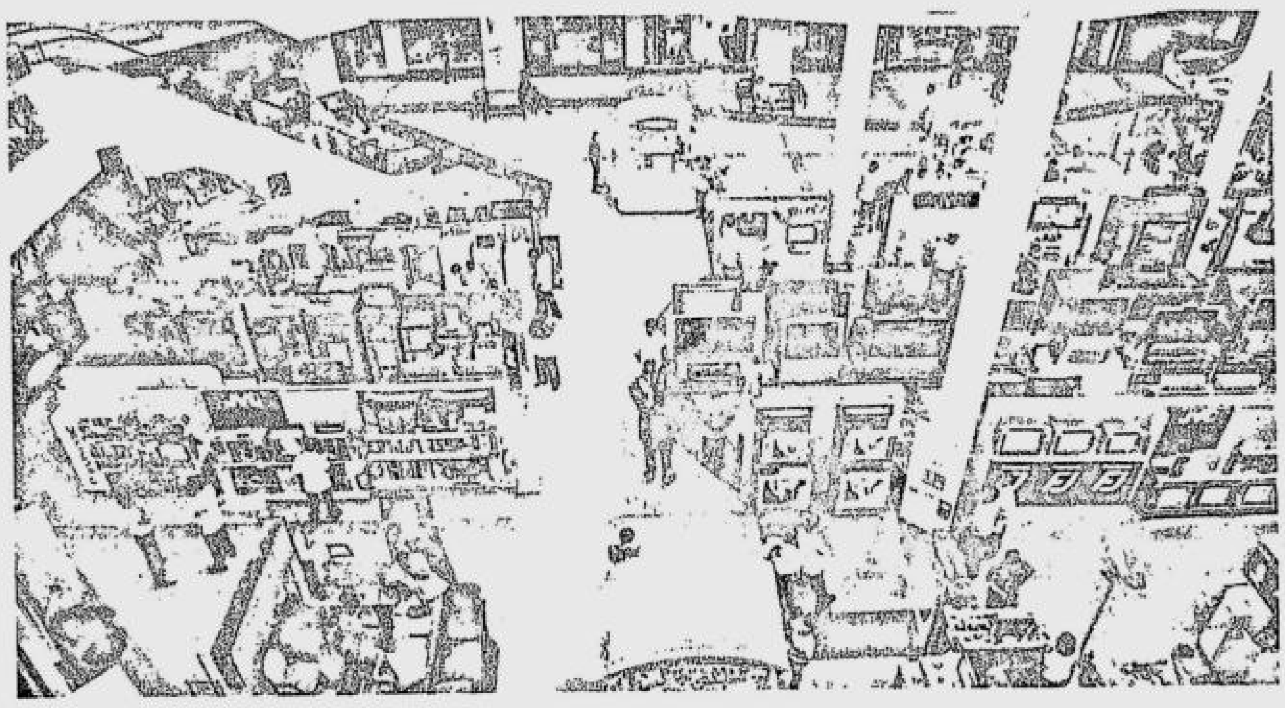
Its processor or picture master automatically converts the input signal to high-definition images. While in terms of color quality, Hitachi has the highest among other brands with 68.6 billion colors.

The partnership with Automatic has given both Hitachi and the consumers a good venue for a good business as attested by good sales the past year, said Balistoy.

> Automatic Centre is the first appliance retailer to carry Hitachi because of its belief in the quality of the products, according to Geoffrey Lim of Automatic.



PLASMA Zone



First Day Funk promo

WHAT'S the easiest and funkiest way to be a million pesos richer? Join Rexona's First Day Funk promo. And nothing could be simpler than this. Just watch out for the First Day Funk TV commercial, print ads and promo posters and answer this simple question – Which dance step does not have funky confidence? Choose the letter that represents your answer then buy any of the Rexona variants – Ice Cool, Silk, Free Spirit, Cool White, Energy, Ionic, Active and Pro-balance. Look for the promo sticker on the pack, take note of the sticker code and text the necessary details to 2955 for all Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk n Text, Addict Mobile, Infinity and Sun Cellular subscribers. Just key in REXONA <letter of your answer >/<sticker code> like this: REXONA C/PXWG8729. And that's it. You can now be the sole millionaire or one of the winners of the 50 laptops that are up for grabs. Text REXONA to 2955 for more details and take that definitive step closer to a million bucks.

Whirlpool seminar

IN LINE with its commitment to give more value and simplify lives, Whirlpool is inviting interested entrepreneurs to attend a seminar on "The Laundry Business Made Easy" at the training room of Excellence Appliance Tech Inc in Quezon City. To be held on July 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the seminar offers a comprehensive approach on how to plan for, set up, and mange one's own laundry shop business, what equipment and suppliers to utilize, and how to make business analyses to help generate maximum profitability. Whirlpool continues to support the needs of individuals venturing into the laundry shop business while continuing to provide superior services and more advanced product lines to satisfied homeowners, all of whom consider it the brand of choice for heavy-duty washing and drying needs. For inquiries, call Lorena Pelayo or Prime Asis at tel. nos. 712-0535, 712-2830, and 712-7073.

Best of SAP World Tour

SAP Philippines announced that the Best of SAP World Tour will arrive in Manila, Philippines on July 26 to 27, as it stages the first ever SAP Philippines Summit at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. The Best of SAP World Tour brings SAP experts directly to customers at this comprehensive business and technology event to inform them about mySAP ERP, its SAP NetWeaver foundation and the role Enterprise Services Architecture will play in future IT ecosystems. Following last year's successful SAP NetWeaver World Tour, the Best of SAP World Tour 2005 is expected to reach nearly 100 cities over the course of the year. The World Tour visit in Manila will feature keynote and special presentations by key SAP global and regional executives and leading companies in various industries from the Philippines and other countries worldwide. For more information about the tour, visit www.sap.com/worldtour or http://www.sap.com/philippines/summit/index.aspx.

Perfumery Workshop

CHEMWORLD Fragrance Institute is holding a Perfumery Workshop open to all individuals who want to learn how to make colognes and body spray through hands-on seminars. It also teaches participants the science of aromatherapy and is sure to be enjoyed by people of all ages. There is a minimal fee of P150 for raw materials to be used in the workshop. Sign up for the perfumery seminar now and you might be one of the lucky participants to receive a free Diamond Peel certificate worth P2,200 at the Godiva Skin Station. The Godiva Diamond Peel is the latest non-surgical age eraser that's safer, less extreme and has zero downtime compared to chemical peels. Perfumery seminar schedules are on Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Tuesdays, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Chemworld Training Room, Suite 404, Executive Building Center, Makati Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For more information, please contact Chemworld at tel. nos. (632) 895-4410, (632) 890-9844 to 47 loc. 38 or 39; 0917-8736547/48, or e-mail chemwrld@info.com.ph.

'Philippines' Bests! 2005'

SOUTHERN Tagalog Region (Region IV) exhibits the Great Outdoor Adventure for the "Philippines' Bests! 2005" with Eco-tourism and Beach Holidays as the theme on July 8 to 31. The Department of Tourism (DOT) hospitality pavilion will be the centerpiece structure of the regional showcase that will feature a wellness and spa salon set in a beach setting that will be decorated by Fuego Hotels. Five smaller structures will surround the main pavilion to be connected by a boardwalk. White sands will be surged around the cottages together with palm/coconut trees to emulate a beachfront. All the five built cottages will showcase the different tourism products of Mimaro and Calabarzon.

SMC QC 2005 Homecoming

ALL ELEMENTARY, high school and college graduates of St. Mary's College, Quezon City are invited to the 2005 Alumni Homecoming today, at 1 p.m. to be held at the school auditorium with this year's Silver Jubilarians - High School Batch 1980. "Hello SMC… Hello SMC… High School Batch 1980 is coming home" - promises to be one of the most memorable gatherings of Marians with the election of the new set of board of directors of the Alumni Foundation for 2005-2007. For inquiries, call out-going alumni president, Fe Silica Serquina-Arellano at (0917)522-5218 or Batch '80 representative Teelo Sison-Sorreta at 0918-5210361.

Come 2005 Conference

THE 2005 Conference of the Council Management Educators (Come) will be held on July 29 at the Manila Hotel. Senator Gordon will be the keynote speaker on the theme, "Looking Beyond, Moving Ahead Towards a Globalized Management Education." Other resource speakers will represent the private business sectors, the government and the academe. The participants will then proceed to Subic, Olongapo for the second day activity, which involves an observation tour of companies operating within the base and scenic spots in the area. For inquiries, call Come at 0917-8250030.

Ministop, TCL Book Drive

MINISTOP, the country's fastest-growing combo-store, has launched a Book Drive in partnership with The Children's Library (TCL), a free multi-media resource center that is geared towards making instructional materials available to kids, especially the underprivileged. The Book Drive, which will run until July 24, encourages customers to drop by any Ministop branch and leave their book donations in boxes provided in every store. While any form of generosity is welcome, TCL requests that books donated should be those published not later than 1996 since older books tend to contain information that may no longer be applicable.

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AT318
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Now, you can spend more time enjoying life's simple pleasures.

Dual Emission System
Ensures perfectly even cooking without any cold spots.

Crisp Function
Allows food to be cooked with a crispy brown finish.

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AVM585
28 liter Electronic Control
With grill function
Available in white, black, & stainless colors

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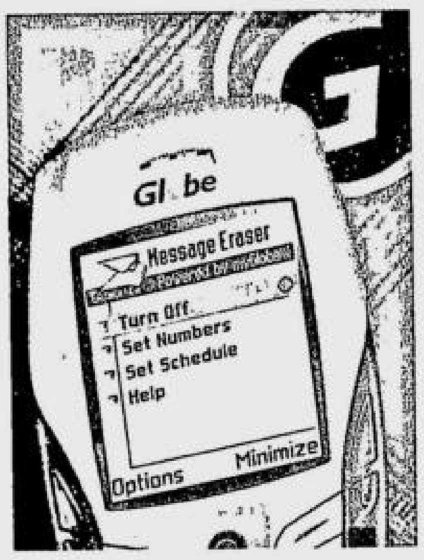
Editor Aries Espinosa

G-Cash security boosted by myGlobe Message Eraser



IN AN era where mobile phones have become an indispensable part of daily life, the issue of mobile phone theft is a serious concern. Apart from cutting off the all-important connection to friends and family, it also renders individuals susceptible to other types of fraud. Globe Handyphone, the pioneering name in mobile communication and innovation, recognizes the public's mounting concern over invasion of privacy and has recently launched a breakthrough application that addresses their subscribers' security concerns.

Aptly dubbed myGlobe Message Eraser, the application automatically deletes user-specified messages in a mobile phone's Outbox or Sent folder. Downloadable for free at the myGlobe WAP site and website, as well as on the official G-Cash site, the service is a preventive measure against data theft since it erases potentially sensitive information upon sending the message, or after specific intervals designated by the user. Subscribers can register up to ten mobile phone numbers for automatic deletion. These numbers can be encoded manually or imported from the mobile phone's existing contacts list.

Message Eraser adds another layer of security to the already strict encryption protocols enforced for G-Cash, the country's first and only cashless and cardless m-commerce service. The application's default settings are set to G-Cash, thus ensuring that confidential information such as the MPIN and p2p transfer amounts are shielded from unauthorized users. With Message Eraser, subscribers who have initially been wary of m-commerce's security can now rest their fears since the application addresses the issue of the physical theft of G-Cash data stored in one's mobile phone. The service also provides the same degree of privacy to other mobile banking transactions.

To download Message Eraser, all subscribers have to do is connect to the myGlobe WAP site, click on "Tools" and select "Message Eraser." Use of the service is free of charge. Message Eraser is currently available for Nokia 60 and 80 series, with versions for other mobile phone brands available soon.

Fight for your right to mobile phone privacy! Download myGlobe Message Eraser and protect your phone from data theft now.

Z-VITA IS MOST OUTSTANDING HEIGHT ENHANCEMENT VITAMIN

Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, president and CEO of Pediapharma Inc receives the Philippine Marketing Excellence award for most outstanding height enhancement vitamin (Z-Vita syrup) at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila. Shown in photo (from left) are: Dr. Felix M. Lao Jr., chair, awards committee, Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards; Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, president/CEO, Pediapharma Inc; Alab D. Vitug, professional and public relations manager, Pediapharma Inc; Fanny Serrano, and Donald Lim, national president, Philippine Marketing Association.

Honda hosts mechanical skills showdown

HONDA Philippines Inc, the leader in the motorcycle industry, hosted last June 25 the 2005 National Mechanic Skills Olympics. The competition will be held at Don Bosco Technical School in Makati City.

Participants of the event were the top mechanic representatives who emerged from the regional eliminations. The eliminations were held at six different locations simultaneously last May 27. For regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR, the elimination took place at San Fernando, La Union; regions 4, 5, and NCR at Calamba, Laguna; regions 6, and 7 at Cebu City; region 8 at Tacloban City; regions 9 and 10 at Cagayan de Oro City; and regions 11, 12, and Caraga at Davao City. A total of 115 mechanic representatives from different Honda Motorycle 3S Dealers participated in the regional eliminations, but only the Top 12 were selected after the results were tallied. The Top 12 to compete in the finals are: Jose Milan Gorecho, Du Ek Sam Inc (dealer), Escalante branch; Arsenio T. Lontoc, Wrenleys Appliance Plaza Inc (dealer), Tagbilaran City branch; Godfrey C. Ares, United Motoliance Network (dealer), Guihulngan branch; Marlou Madrazo, Honda Motorworld Inc (dealer), Sogod branch; Rommel G. Salubre, La Trade Devt Corp (dealer), Sto. Tomas, Batangas branch; Emmanuel N. Muñez, Honda Desmark (dealer), Toril, Davao City branch; Jose A. Duque, Odyssey Motors (dealer), Dipolog City branch; Anaclito Osias, Honda Desmark (dealer), Butuan City branch; Rubi Barnie Bacolod, Honda Powercycle (dealer), Agdao, Davao City branch; Rufino B. Urbe, Guanzon Mdsg Corp (dealer), Baguio branch; Mitzheval V. Condino, Honda Powercycle Inc (dealer), Gen. Trias, Cavite branch; Loreto C. Taronas Jr., Du Ek Sam Inc (dealer), Estancia branch.

These 12 finalists will compete in three major categories: theoretical examination, actual troubleshooting, and parts inspection. These tests will determine their knowledge of the wide variety of motorcycle parts; their ability to diagnose and rectify the motorcycle's problem; and their technical proficiency in relation to Honda motorcycle's principles and design.

Among the 12 National Finalists, Honda Philippines Inc will choose the Top 3 winners. The Top 2 will represent Honda at the Asia and Oceana skills contest on Oct 20, in Indonesia. All transportation and hotel accommodation expenses will be shouldered by Honda Philippines Inc.

TIMBERLAND HEIGHTS ESTABLISHES AGROFORESTRY CENTER

Aimed to be an ideal place for the most nature-friendly and suitable way of farming, Timberland Heights has set up a model farm for organic production and on-site research of organic agriculture suitable for the project. Established in partnership with the UP-Los Baños institute of Agroforestry, the Timberland Heights Agroforestry Center consists of a training center where residents can learn more about farming basics and appropriate technologies, a nursery that showcases the many potentials of farming, and a learning laboratory where one can experience and learn about nature firsthand. Located in Timberland Heights, this prestige project of Filinvest Land Inc, is just a 10 to 15-minute drive from Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City.

PANA COOKS UP FOR THE FAMILY

Members of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers went to the kitchen and got their notepads ready as they attended a fun cooking class by cooking expert Dorothy Ferreria, which made the weekend (July 9) with the family extra special at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Center in Rockwell, Makati. Photo shows (from left) PANA management consultant Ricky Estrada, Dorothy Ferreria, PANA board directors Atoy Babasa; Sandra Puno and Angie Padilla, PANA president Bien Fernando and PANA Foundation chair Bobby Sumulong.

METROPOLITAN DENTAL CENTER OPENS

The Metropolitan Medical Center (formerly Metropolitan Hospital) launched its very own Dental Center last July 8, at the 5th floor, Main Building of Metropolitan Medical Center in Masangkay St, Tondo, Manila with the purpose of promoting quality oral health care and continuing education and training for postgraduates of Dentistry. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was presided by (from left) Dr. Cheung Lai Chun (head, Metropolitan Dental Center), Dr. Leonor Rosero (chair, Professional Regulation Commission), Dr. Mario Esquillo (president, Philippine Dental Association), and Joel T. Go (president, Metropolitan Medical Center).

DIRECT LINK 'FREE GAS' RAFFLE WINNERS

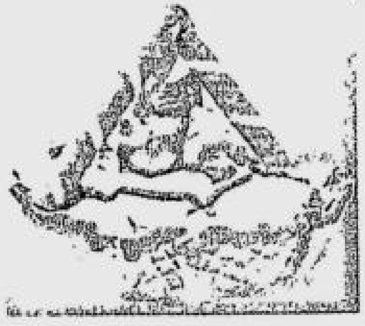
Direct Link Car Insurance announces the Direct Link 'Free Gas' monthly renewal raffle winners: Mars Carbonell, Casimiro Jabola, and Jose Noel Cruz of Chemfoods Mfg Inc for January; Marian Tumbado, Federico Sarabia of Losar Optics Inc, and Khun Ha Yun for February; Domingo Tan, Olivia Castillo, and Esperanza Beleo for March. Photo shows Crisanto C. Estrada of SGV validating tickets during the raffle draw as Direct Link personnel look on.

ProductFILES

He loves the jobs you hate

MR. MUSCLE will gladly and easily do your toughest cleaning jobs. Mr. Muscle Mold and Mildew Killer's no-scrub formula kills mold and mildew down to the roots. Just spray and rinse for a complete and easy cleaning. Mr. Muscle Drain Declogger has a Thick Gel Formula that passes through standing water and goes straight to the clog. The thickness of the gel clings to the clog better to dissolve it faster. And with Mr. Muscle Kitchen Cleaner, you can instantly remove stubborn dirt and grease simply by spraying and wiping. There's no need to rinse! It's great for hard-to-reach areas and appliances that shouldn't get wet. So pass on those hateful jobs to Mr. Muscle. Mr. Muscle loves the jobs you hate.

Oh Champola Ice Cream Parlor: A creamy fantasy

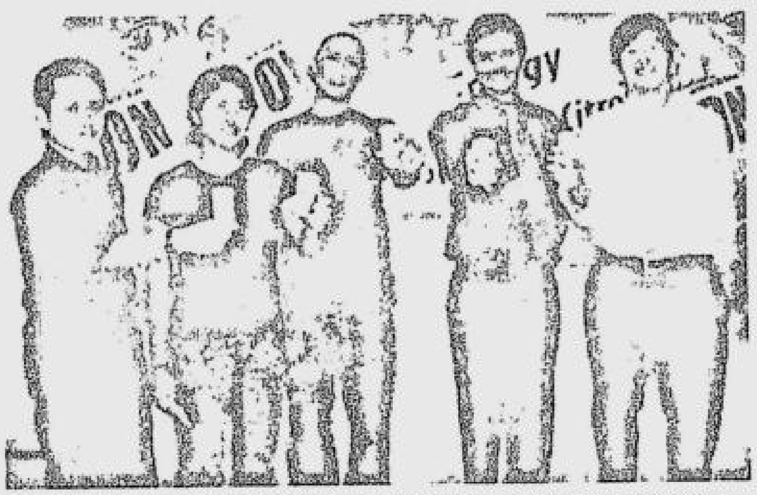


HERE is something new for all you ice cream lovers out there, the amazing Oh Champola Ice Cream Parlor. Help yourself to the delicious goodness of mid-blasted ice cream in specially prepared Belgian bowls. Go ahead and indulge your taste buds in this soiree of overwhelming flavors ice cream scientists from around the world have prepared for your enjoyment. Mid-blasted ice cream uses fresh fruits free of food coloring and preservatives; everything is prepared right in front of your eyes; a tastier and healthier alternative to ordinary ice cream. For more information visit them at Sct. Torillo cor. Sct. Madrinan South Triangle, Quezon City or call (632) 371-8802 to 04.

Go Coco-loko with VCO

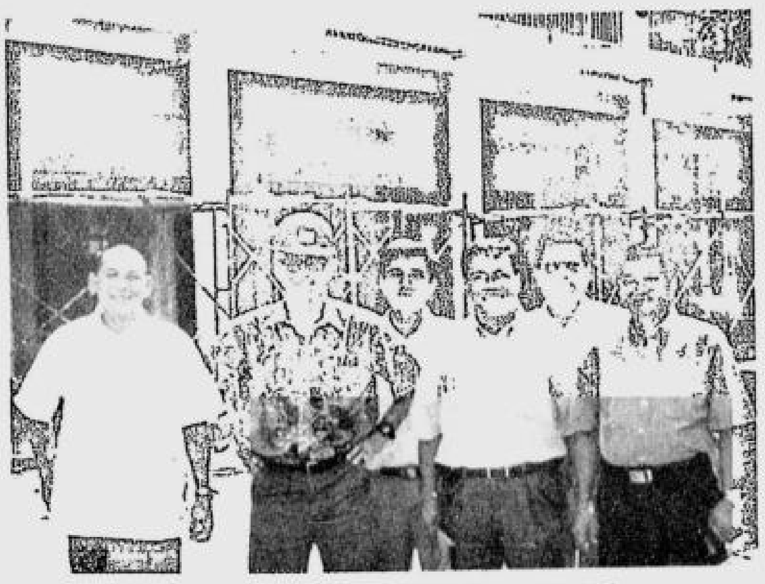
ABS Herbs
Virgin

VARIOUS researches and epidemiological studies now abound on the health giving benefits of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO). Dr. Bruce Fife, known as Doctor Coconut says that VCO is a good oil which helps enhance the immune system, protects against cancer, lose excess body fat, kills disease causing bacteria, viruses and fungi, protects your skin against wrinkles and boost your energy levels. ABS Herbs, the herbal supplement company introduces into the market Grace Virgin Coconut Oil in 250ml bottles. It is made from fresh coconuts, through the natural, cold-pressed method. No heat was involved in the process, so the consumer gets the purest nutrients and health-giving benefits of the oil. Grace VCO is available in Mercury Drug, Watsons, and selected drugstores nationwide at P149 only. When looking for a VCO, look for the ABS Herbs label. ABS Herbs is the only Philippine herbal supplement company listed by the NSF International - The Public Health and Safety Company which does quality checks on herbal supplements. Visit www.abs-herbs.com.ph for more information.



NEW I-ON ENERGY DRINK ENERGIZES DLSU TEAM

New I-ON Energy Drink from Revicon supports the Women's Basketball Team of the De La Salle University (DLSU). New I-ON Energy Drink From Revicon combines the active ingredients of royal jelly, ginseng, iron, and a score of multivitamins that helps improve the physical stamina and mental alertness of the team as they compete in this year's edition of the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP). Shown holding their preferred I-ON Energy Drink are (from left) Jojo Gaviola, associate product manager for New I-ON Energy Drink From Revicon, Regina Jose, DLSU Women's Basketball assistant coach; head coach Ramon Jose; Jun Vivar, Unilab vice president for consumer health, and Mark Go-Alcantara, product manager for Revicon. Now out to energize the whole nation, New I-ON Energy Drink From Revicon is available in leading supermarkets, convenience stores, and drugstores nationwide.



PVB INKS SHORT-TERM LOAN WITH SBMEI

Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB), a private commercial bank inked a short-term loan with Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc (SBMEI) to partially finance the construction of the 88-room Camayan Beach Resort Hotel in Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) located adjacent to the Ocean Adventure Marine Park. The project is expected to be fully operational by July 2005. Photo shows the on-going construction of the project at 95 percent completion, (from left) PVB president and CEO Ricardo A. Balbido Jr., SBMEI chair and CEO Timothy J. Desmond, SBMEI construction director engineer Oscar T. Evangelista, PVB senior vice president Severo C. Leagogo, SBMEI CFO Benito R. Javier and PVB vice president and head of legal division lawyer Alfredo Laya.

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- Compex Computer
- Compex Telecom
- Data Blitz
- Entry Data Point (EDP)
- Electroworld
- E-Phone
- Epson
- Games & Gadgets
- Hello
- Infomax
- Macromind
- Mega Exchange
- Memo Express
- NT Computer
- Octagon
- Pacific Internet
- PC Corner
- PC Live
- Power Telecom
- Premium Logic
- Quickline Micro
- Save on Surplus (SOS)
- Silicon Valley
- The Computer Authority (TCA)
- Topwin Telecom
- Wireless Telecom
- 5th Avenue

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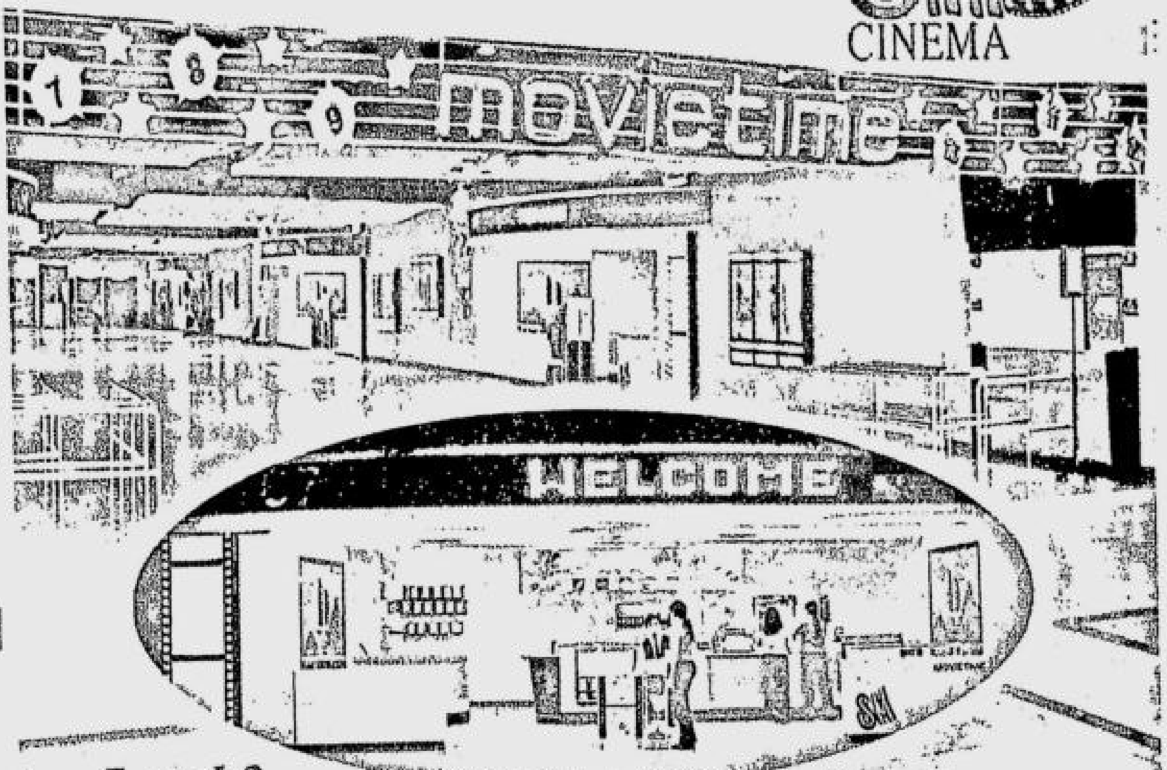
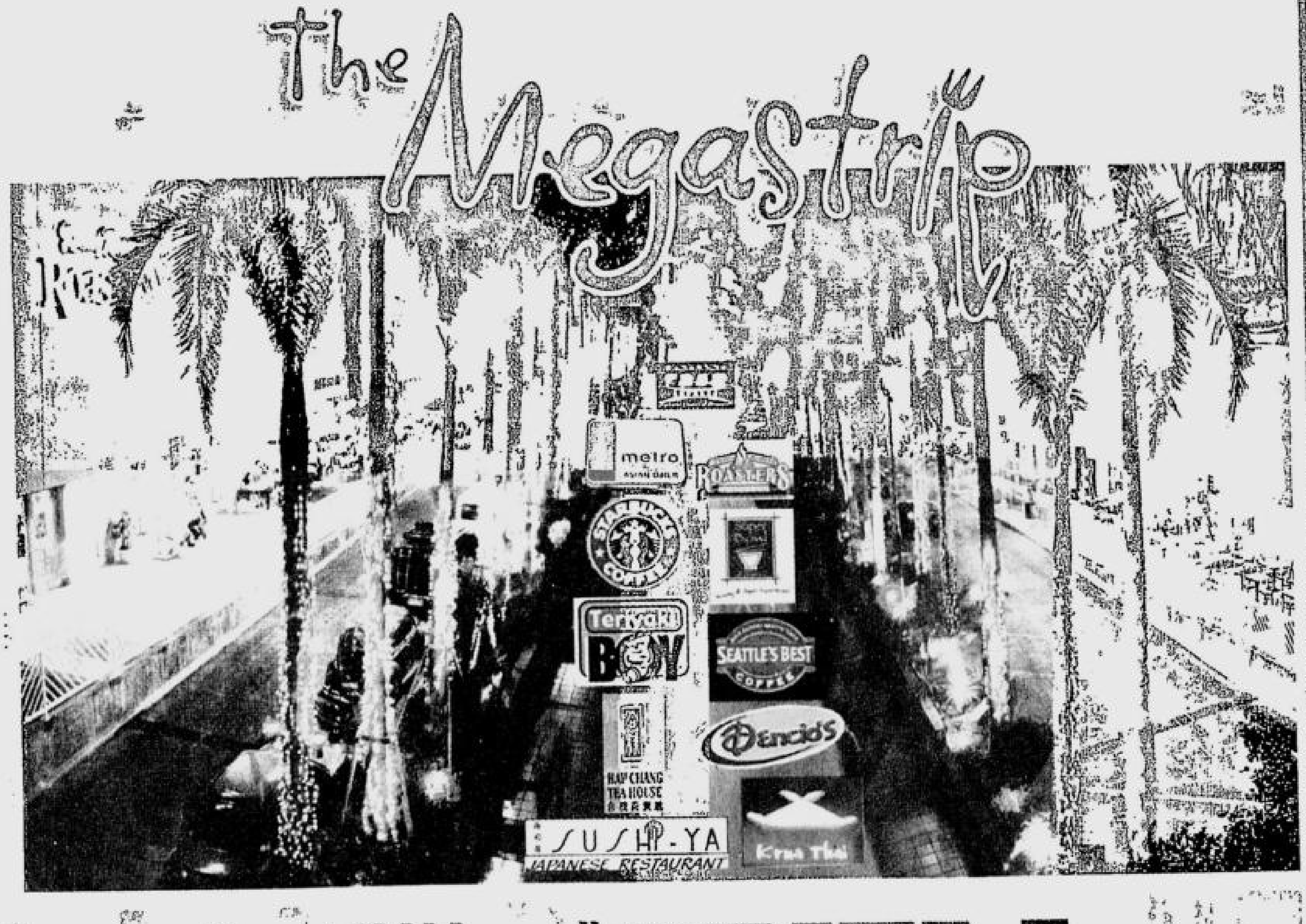

movietime
WELCOME

Level 3
Bldg. A

the Megastrip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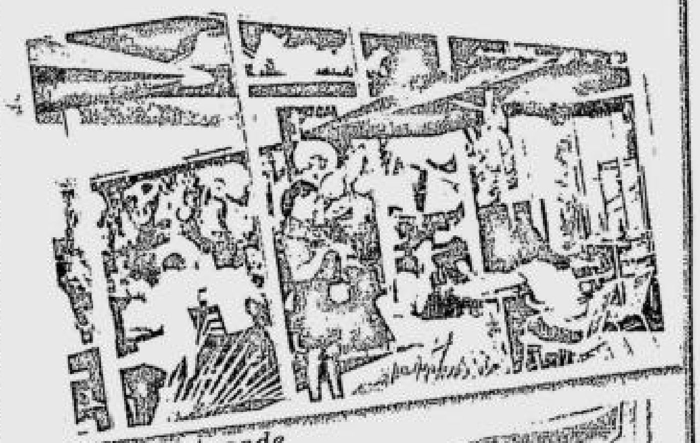

Bldg. B Arcade

Bldg. A Arcade

Bldg. B Arcade

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We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
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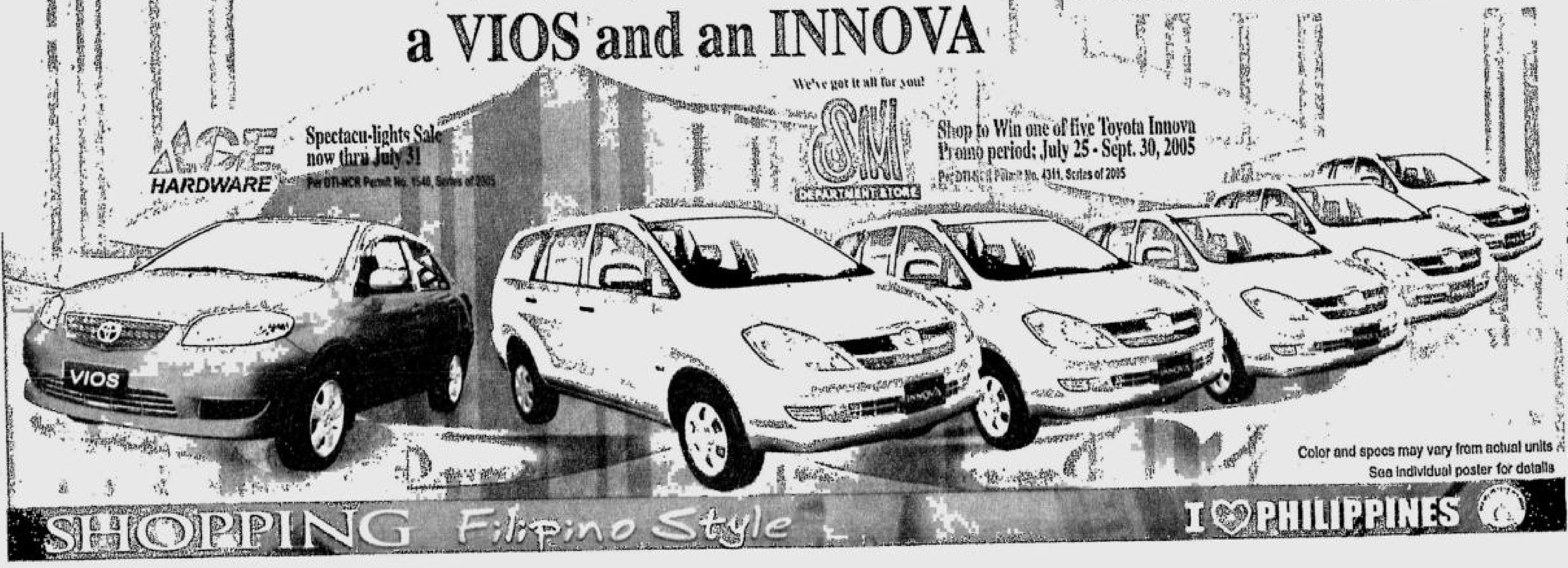
Promo period: July 25 - Sept. 30, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4311, Series of 2005



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See individual poster for details

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and style....
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REPLAY
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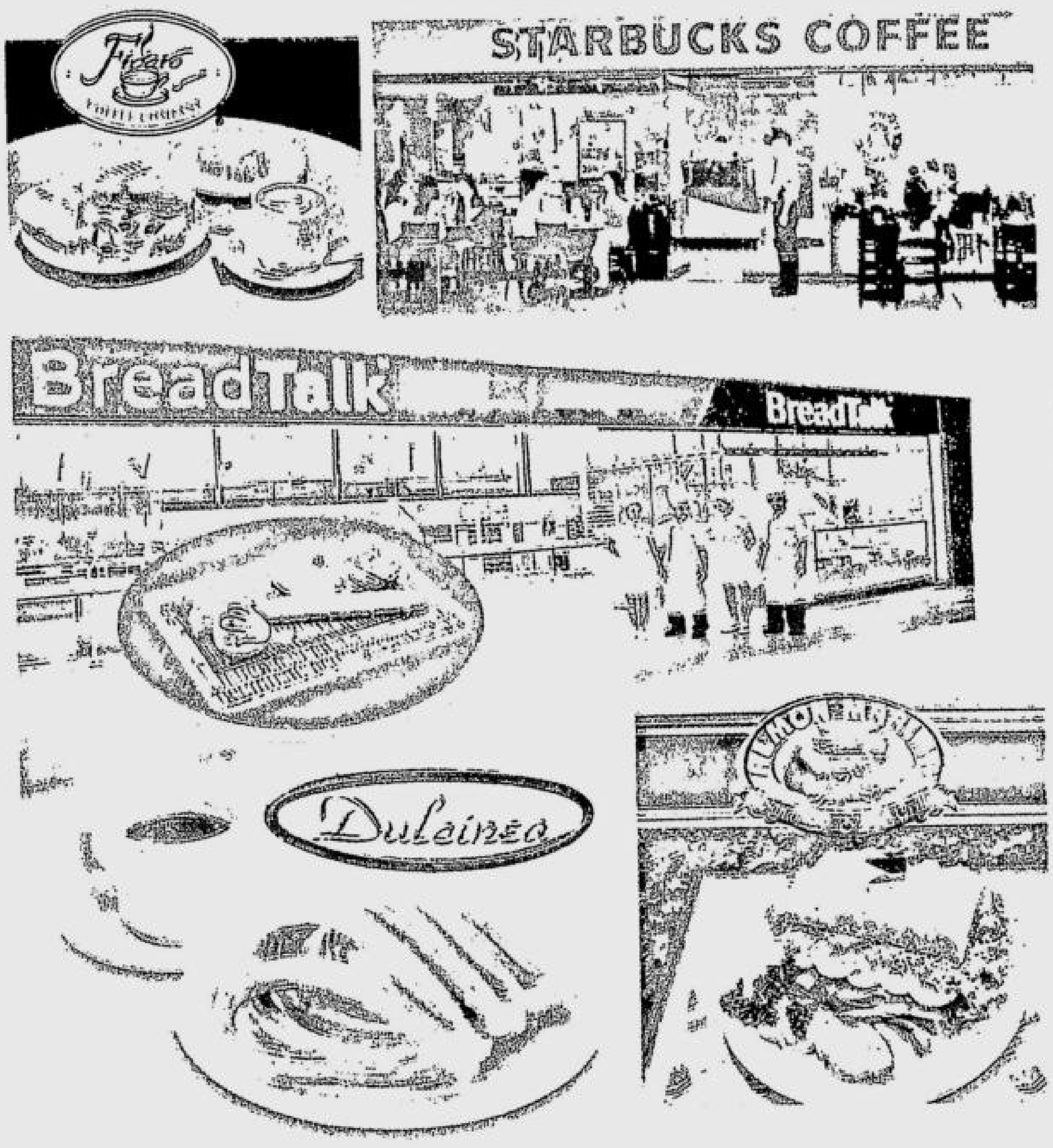
WADE
mossimo
MEMO
SHOPPING Filipino Style
I ♥ PHILIPPINES

SM
MEGAMALL
ORTIGAS

MEGA DINING

What's brewin'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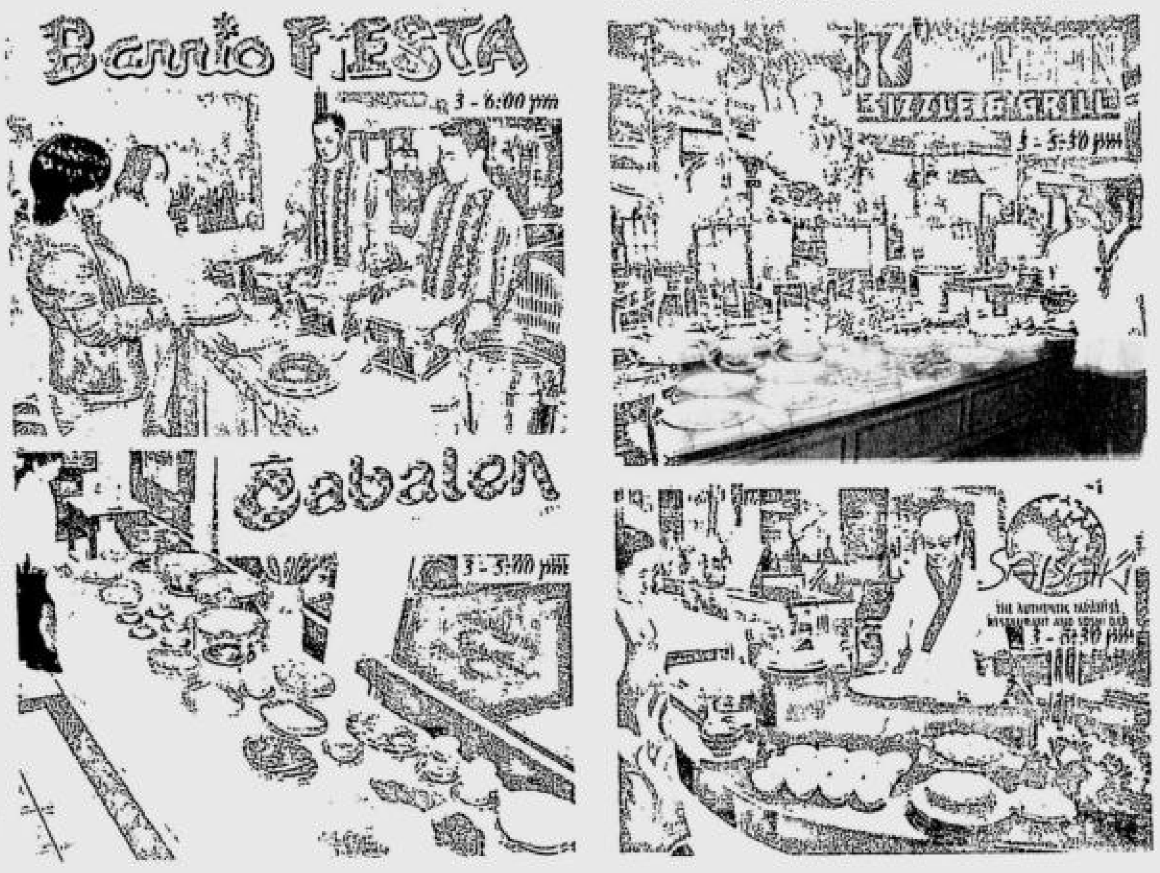
monday to sunday

DADS
The Ultimate Buffet
3 - 5:30 pm


Barrio FIESTA
3 - 6:00 pm
SIZZLE & GRILL
3 - 5:30 pm
Cabalen
3 - 5:30 pm
Saisaki
3 - 5:30 pm

Going Japanese

YOSHINOYA
YOSHINOYA
Rai-Rai Ken

Asian Mix

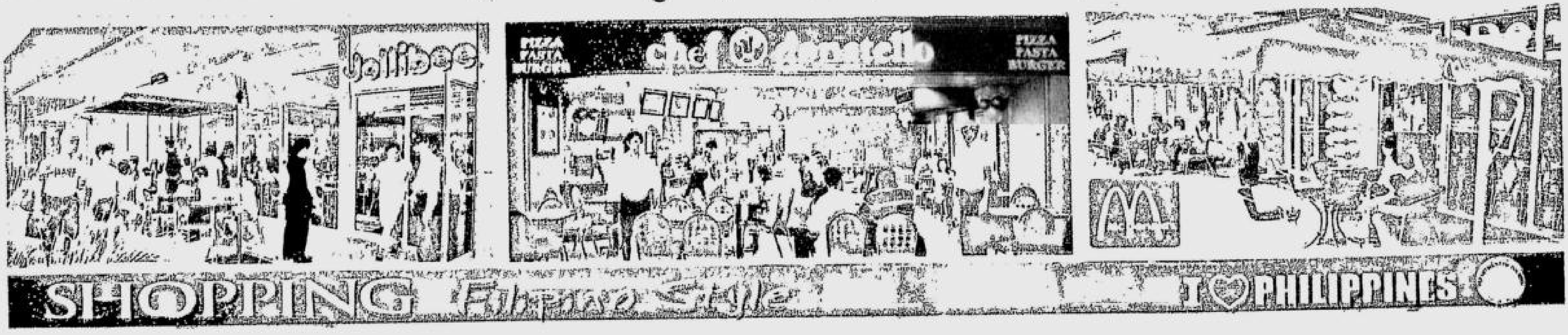
LEMON
mannang

FLAVORS
FROM
ALL
OVER

Chinese Cuisine

Mexican, anyone?

Burger, Pizza, Pasta

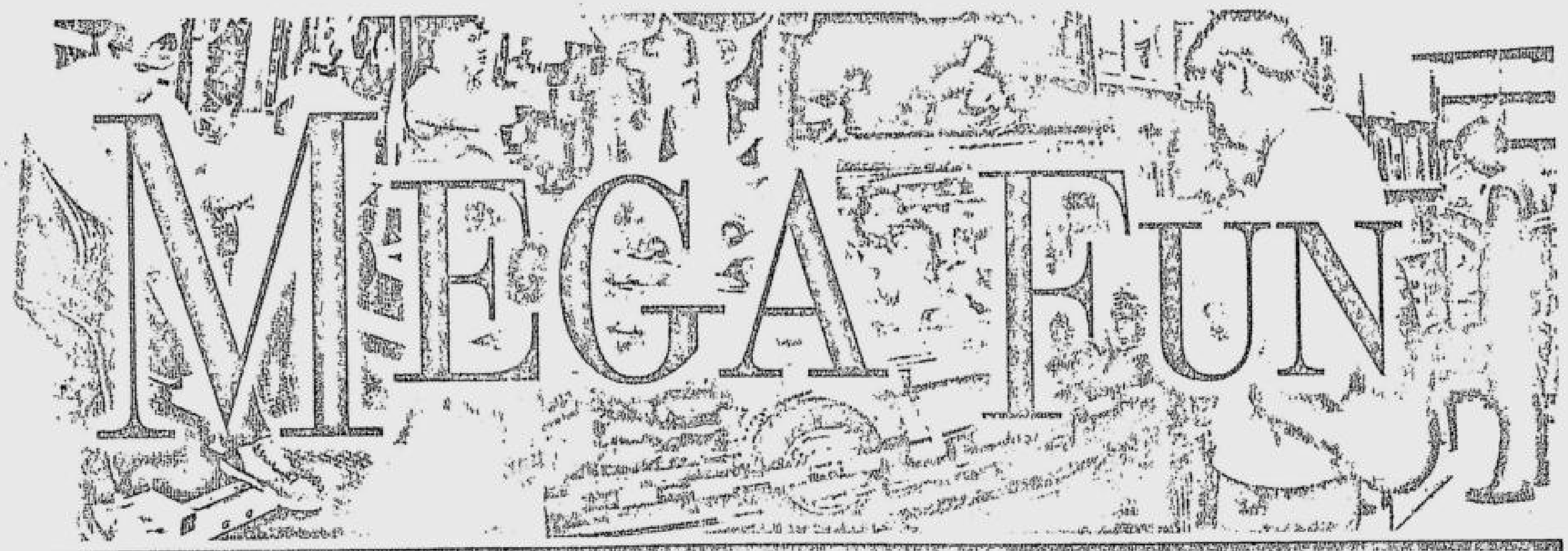

Jollibee
PIZZA PASTA BURGER
chef d'angelo
PIZZA PASTA BURGER

SHOPPING Filipino Style I ♥ PHILIPPINES

SM

MEGAMALL

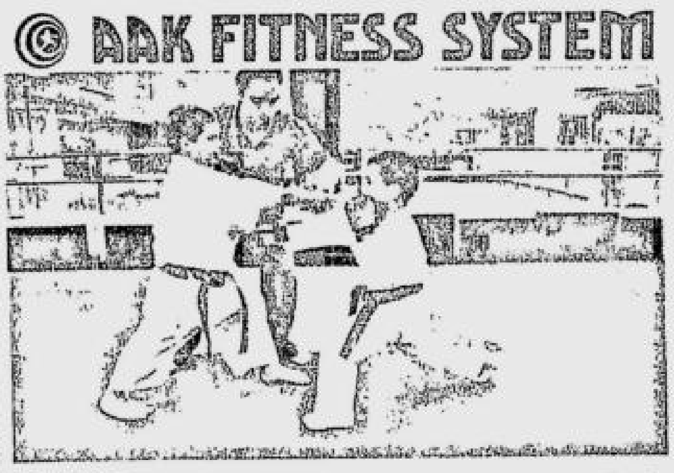
ORTIGAS

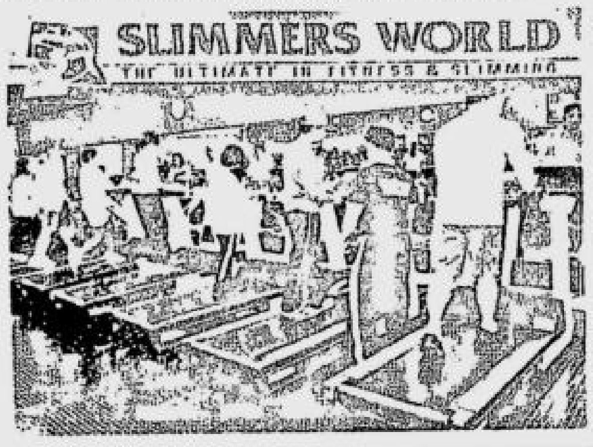


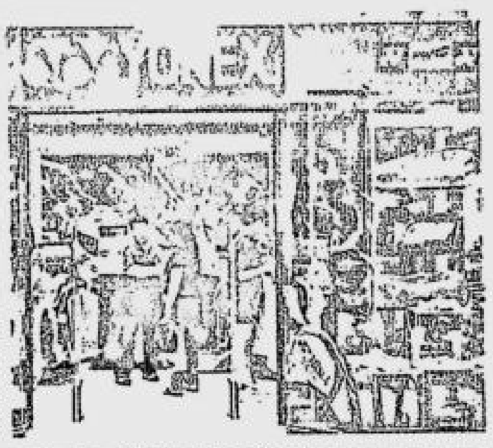
MEGA FUN

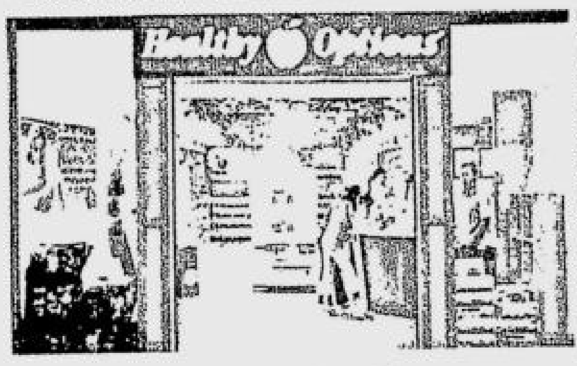
Keeping fit...

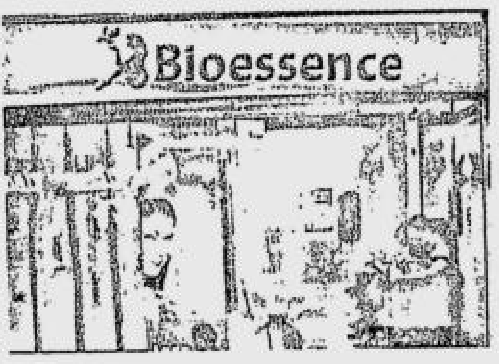
MIZUNO
SWEET ALL OVER
MP-001


AAK FITNESS SYSTEM


SLIMMERS WORLD
THE ULTIMATE IN FITNESS & SLIMMING

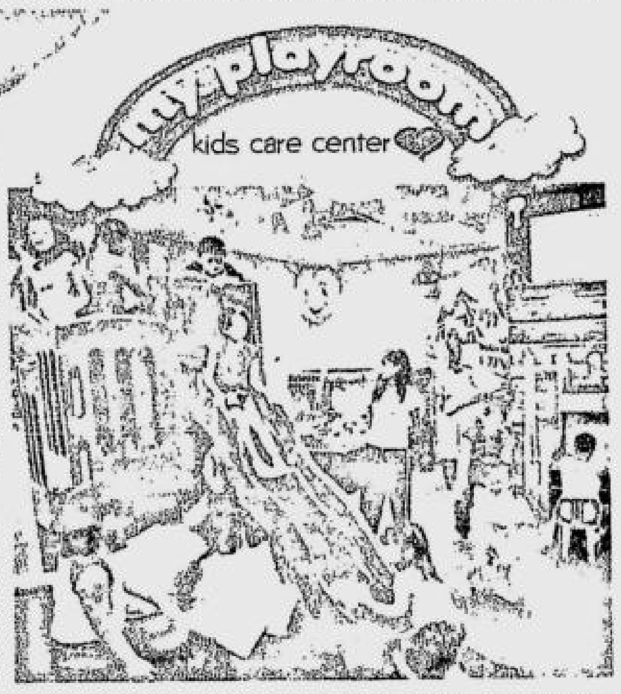



Healthy Options


Bioessence

Staying young...

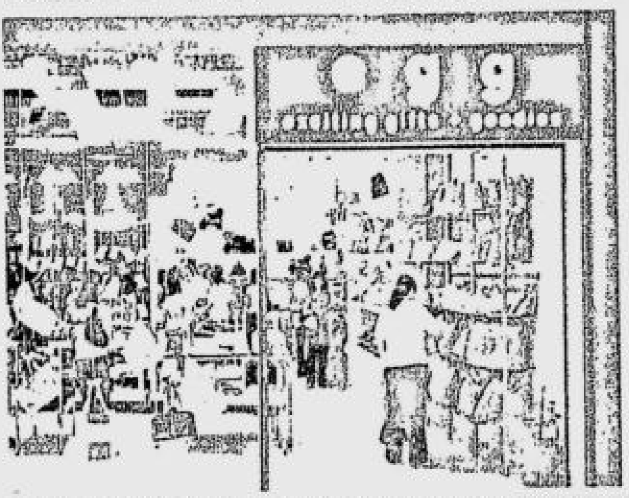
Discover the fun at
GLICO'S
5
6
7

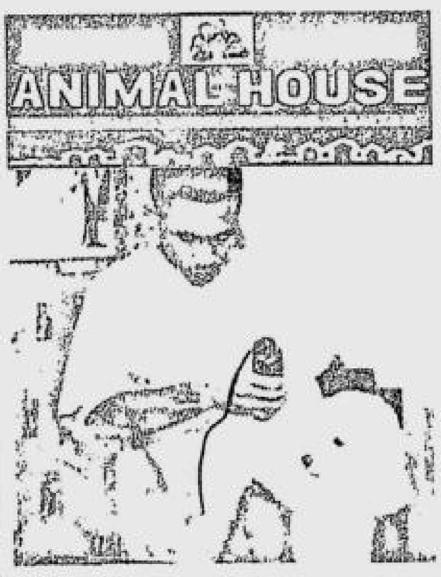

myplayroom
kids care center

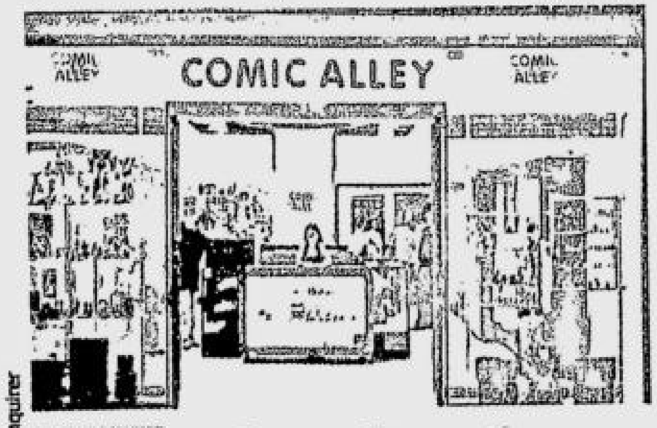
Specialty shops

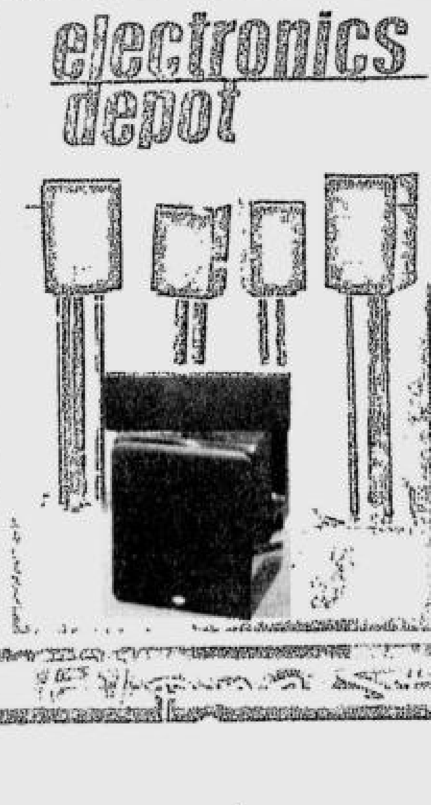
POWER BOOKS

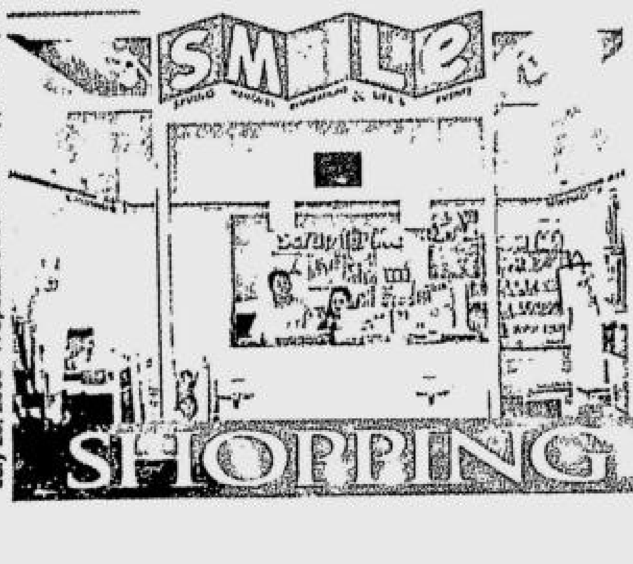
TOWER RECORDS




ANIMAL HOUSE


COMIC ALLEY
COMIC ALLEY
COMIC ALLEY

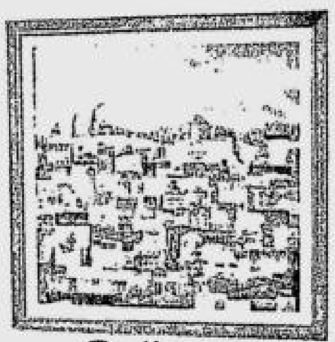

electronics depot



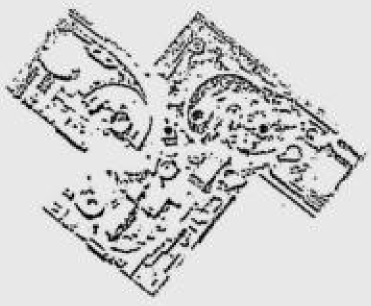
For art's sake

Level 4 Bldg. A

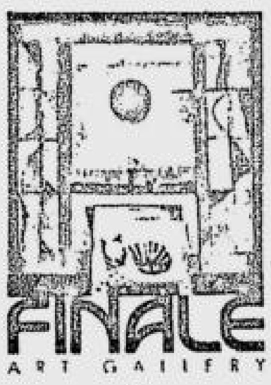
ART CENTER

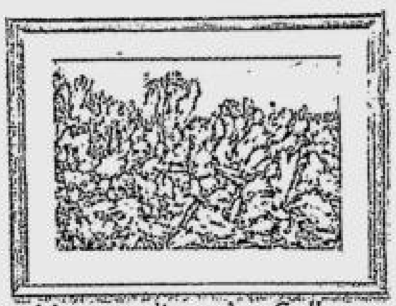


Gallerie Y



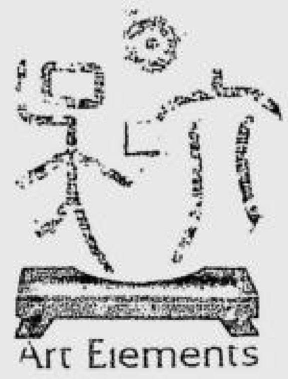
West Gallery


FINALE
ART GALLERY



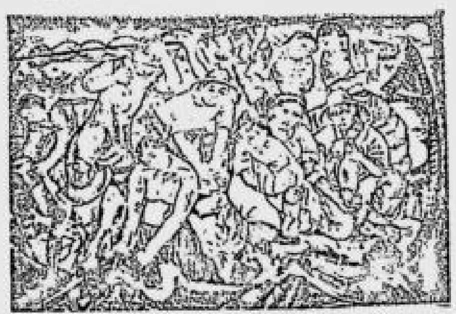
Metropolitan Art Gallery

Heritage



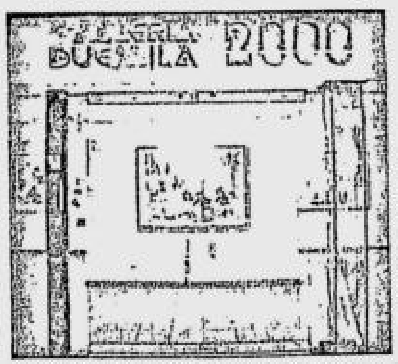
Art Elements

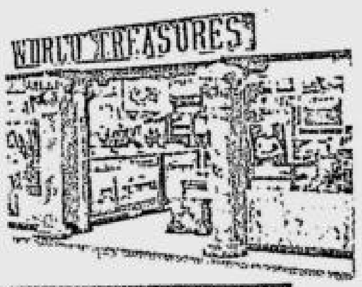
Renaissance Gallery



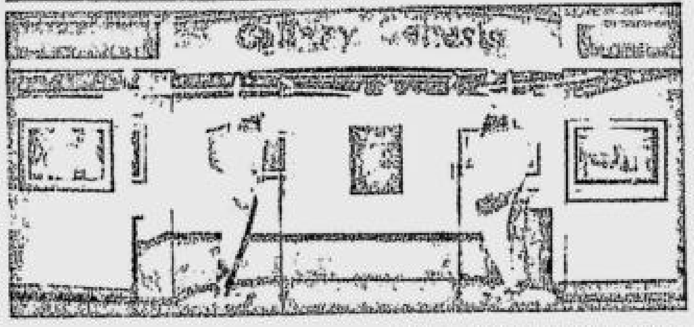
Gallery Nine

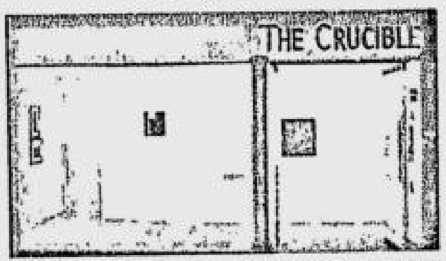
Big & Small Art Co.

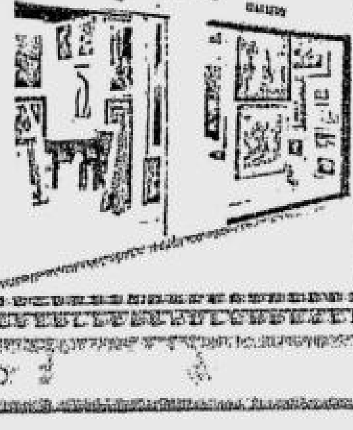


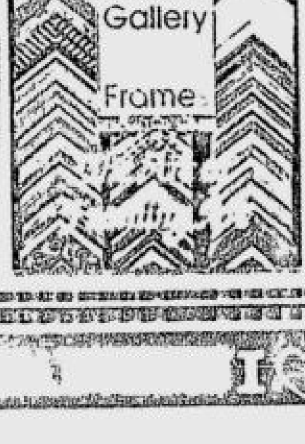

WORLD TREASURES

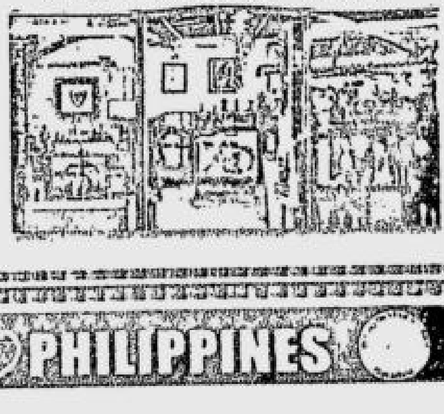
Unang Panahon


Gallery Genesis


THE CRUCIBLE


PASSIONARTS


Gallery
Frame


THE MUSEUM SHOP